BING

APRIL 1991

No. 97

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE

Founded 1950

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Australia	£11.50 per annum

All remittances should be paid in £ sterling, payable to "Michael Crampton — ICC" with the exception of U.S. members who should send their remittance in U.S. dollars to F. Wiggins whose address is shown on page 1.
All articles for inclusion in the magazine should be sent to Ken Crossland.
Readers' letters and material for inclusion in Trading Post should be sent to Malcolm Macfarlane.
Any other correspondence concerning membership or other aspects of club affairs should be sent to Michael Crampton.
Cover photograph courtesy of Tony Carpenter.

BING is the official journal of the International Crosby Circle and is published in April, August and December of each year.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ICC. All original material c ICC 1991.

EDITORIAL

BING 97 hopefully finds you in the midst of a pleasant English Spring. At the time of writing however (mid-February) our climate is anything but Spring-like. Several inches of snow remain on the ground and the tunes in our head are more along the lines of "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow" than "It Might As Well Be Spring". Let us hope that as you read this, "Spring Will Be A Little Late This Year" is not one of the tunes of the moment.

Once again, I am indebted to our various correspondents who have conspired to produce another issue which is brim full of original material. Malcolm Macfarlane and Lionel Pairpoint give us insights into two of the lesser celebrated parts of Bing's career, namely the 1934 Woodbury series and the half hour television situation comedy series from 1964. Added to that, we have an informative history of "The Whiffenpoof Song" plus our regular features from Leslie Gaylor, Keith Parkinson and Derek Parkes. My thanks to you all.

An interesting theme emerges from some of the articles submitted and the letters received from members. That theme is — "We should do more to perpetuate Bing's memory". But is that necessarily true? I tend to take the view that simply by being part of the ICC, we all make some contribution to Bing's memory. I'm sure too that many members, through their own circle of friends, help to keep his name to the fore. There are however those who say that we, the members of the ICC, should take on a far greater responsibility. They argue that unless we adopt a style whereby we all become a lobbying force — on the media, the record companies, the disc jockeys — to hammer away the message that "We want more Bing", no one else will. They may indeed be right.

I'm sure that we'd all subscribe to the message, but I'm less confident that most members want to do anything more than enjoy their hobby in the knowledge that they belong to an association of kindred spirits. And if that is the case, we should accept it as a perfectly legitimate basis for ICC membership. Some members like to take on a much more lobbying style — none more so than Leslie Gaylor, who achievements in that regard continue to amaze us. Stan White has a very effective network of contacts with various radio stations in Eastern England, as well as with various record companies. Other members likewise can point to many things they do. We should — and I'm sure we do — salute them all. But equally we should not it seems to me, attempt to create a sense of guilt amongst those who for whatsoever reason, do not wish to write to the BBC, or who choose not to purchase the latest CD or LP release. The ICC and BING exist primarily for the enjoyment and interest of our members. Anything else that we achieve in perpetuating Bing's memory is a bonus.

Isn't it amazing at the amount of pre-recorded material which is now available on video? Go into any video shop and you'll see row after row of films, often seldom heard of since their initial release 20 or 30 years ago, selling at between £5 and £10 each. There's also an increasing amount of TV footage around. The half hour Nat King Cole shows which Channel 4 screened last year are commercially available; and to celebrate Frank Sinatra's 75th Birthday in December of last year, a 13 video set was released drawing almost entirely of TV material.

Bing's association with the late Mary Martin is recalled in "Celluloid Crosby".

So far though, at least in the UK, the video expansion hasn't brought us much Bing. True, we've had two or three of the "Road" films available, plus the "hit" musicals of "White Christmas", "High Society" and "Holiday Inn", but not much of anything from TV. The position is much the same in the USA, although some Mack Sennett compilations, Bing's TV debut from 1954 (with Jack Benny) and an excellent 1964 Bing Crosby Special are around. Perhaps there are issues of copyright which are keeping the flood-gates closed. Alternatively, it may simply be a question of the video companies not realising the gems to be had from the vaults of the TV companies. In the next issue of BING, we plan to begin a series documenting Bing's many and varied TV appearances over the years. Time was, no doubt, when similar projects were launched in respect of Bing's radio work, most of which is now to be had quite readily. Let's hope that in the video market, history repeats itself.

Ken Crossland

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

1990 WAS A SUCCESSFUL AND INNOVATIVE YEAR FOR THE ICC. A judgement made not by me but by a host of members when writing to renew their membership for the coming year. Without wishing to intrude upon Malcolm's columns may I quote a typical letter.

Bill Wesley of Upminster, Essex wrote:-

"Thank you for the latest edition of ***THE*** *magazine. It is another absolute winner and like previous issues, full of so many exciting, interesting and often unexpected items.*

I must express my thanks and appreciation to the Management Committee for the great job you are doing. It obviously takes a lot of time and hard work, but I am sure that you all must know that you are bringing a tremendous amount of happiness and enjoyment to your readers.

There must be many old timers like myself who bought their first records of Bing during the thirties, and would never have believed that, sixty years later, they would be looking forward every few months to the next issue of "BING".

Indeed when we lost our dear old friends Frank and Reg in quick succession I feared that it might be the end. But thanks to you and your colleagues Michael, "BING" lives on".

Bill's comments aptly sum up, the feelings of many members around the world and we hope to continue to merit their approval in the years ahead.

Here it is timely that I record my appreciation of the work done by the Management Committee and their supporting Contributors. Their industriousness and innovation are apparent in the pages of "BING" and without their stirling efforts there would be no journal. I salute them on behalf of all members and record our indebtedness.

Turning to FINANCIAL matters I am pleased to report that we commence 1991 with a healthy balance. However members should appreciate that we could not have produced "BING" from subscription income alone. We were dependent also on donations and profit from the sale of ICC calendars.

The income from both these sources will be considerably less this year and therefore we are especially pleased to record our thanks to the following members who have sent donations for 1991.

Dave Spong, R. Minns, Ragnar Uppman, Donald Bostock, Les Farrell, Bill Huntingdon, Trevor Wagstaff, Ron McCormick, Ian Arnott, Alf Peyton, Ray Purslow, Brian Lewis, Etty Gitts, George Patmore, G. Owen, Jim Hill, David Newbold.

Members will be gratified to learn that the above members have donated the sum of £75.50 to help club funds in the coming year.

INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 20.10.1989 to 31.12.1990

Income

	£
Subscriptions, donations, calendar profit	4023.29
Reg Bristo Appeal	150.00
Donation towards "Bing" 93 (Reg Bristo)	150.00
Interest	
December 1989	6.65
December 1990	114.95
Donations Leeds — October 1990 (R. Chester, D. Haizelden, R. Bosley, J. Saville)	77.00
Calendar Payments	10.00
Cheques in ICC in error	11.50
	4543.39

Expenditure

	£
"Bing" 93 to 96 Printing	1930.00
Postage	927.00
Mrs. G. Bristo	150.00
Secretarial Expenses (Postage, Stationery etc)	160.95
Editorial Expenses	30.00
Calendar Payment (J. Joyce)	10.00
Repayment of Non-ICC cheque	11.50
	3219.19
Balance	1324.20
	4543.39

Notes:
1. The account gives the complete financial picture for the period 20.10.1989 to 31.12.1990.
2. Cash Flow has been greatly improved since the introduction of the January subscription date and this has resulted in a helpful interest payment.
3. Next years accounts will show the period 12 months to 31.12.1991.

The Accounts presented above show all transactions to 31.12.1990. Members will wish to note that the balance includes £750 of subscriptions for 1991. Also there were generous donations from members who attended the Leeds Dinner. To this number I must add John Weir and Bill Huntingdon who gave generously at Gateshead and include a lady who has asked that her name does not appear in "BING". She has given items which have been sold and her 'gift' appears as a donation in the accounts.

Finally on the subject of finance, may I thank all members who have renewed promptly and may I appeal for your generous support with the sale of items in this issue.

Membership Matters

We continue to enrol new members and this despite the fact that we have not yet done any advertising. We are delighted to extend a cordial greeting to:-

STUART LORD, VANCE SEXTON and *JOHN EDWARDS. All from NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA and who join us via the good offices of DAVID CURRINGTON. WELL DONE DAVID.*

From the *UNITED STATES*	*NORMAN WOOLF, MARLIN DORNBUSH, CHRISTINA GIBB.*
From *ENGLAND*	*FRANK PENNELL, Mr. A.D. FISHER, Mrs. J. MANTON, Mrs. JOAN DREWELL, Mr. J.A. BARNETT, RAY PURSLOW (of the Record Centre, Birmingham)), Mrs. P.M. SINCLAIR, KEN MOORE, ARTHUR SMITH.*
From *EIRE*	PADDY PATTERSON

Welcome to all and may you enjoy a long and fruitful association with the International Crosby Circle.

Sadly we must report that three more of our members have died and we extend sincere condolances to their families.

BILL DREWELL who died towards the end of last year derived great pleasure from his Bing collection and he enjoyed his membership of the ICC. His wife Joan told us that Bill had been granted one of his last wishes, when he was able to visit with John Joyce just a few weeks before he died. Joan tells us that she would like to keep in touch with the Bing scene and so she joins us as a member from this issue. Joan derives some comfort from playing Bill's records and tapes.

BILL TOBIN'S death was reported to us by Mrs. Tobin and once again we are gratified to learn that Bill always looked forward to receiving his copy of "BING".

DENNIS STEELE joined the ICC in 1977 following an invite from Reg Bristo. Dennis was a near neighbour of your Secretary and when he knew that he had only a short time to live, he invited me across to discuss what he wished to happen to his records and books. Dennis decided that he would like to donate his collection to the ICC to build up the funds. Elsewhere you will see a list of these items and we hope that members will be generous in supporting the sale.

It was my privilege to sit with Dennis for a couple of hours just two weeks before he died and I was pleased to record a tape for him containing his favourite Victor Herbert Songs.

Dennis was a loyal supporter of the ICC and he will be sorely missed.

As if the above was not enough bad news to bear for one issue we must sadly report that John Weir of Morecambe has lost his wife and we extend our sympathy to John.

Hardship is also being experienced by *MARY HAREWOOD, FRED DOLBY AND JOE BRICKELL* as they fight against various illnesses and we wish them a speedy return to good health.

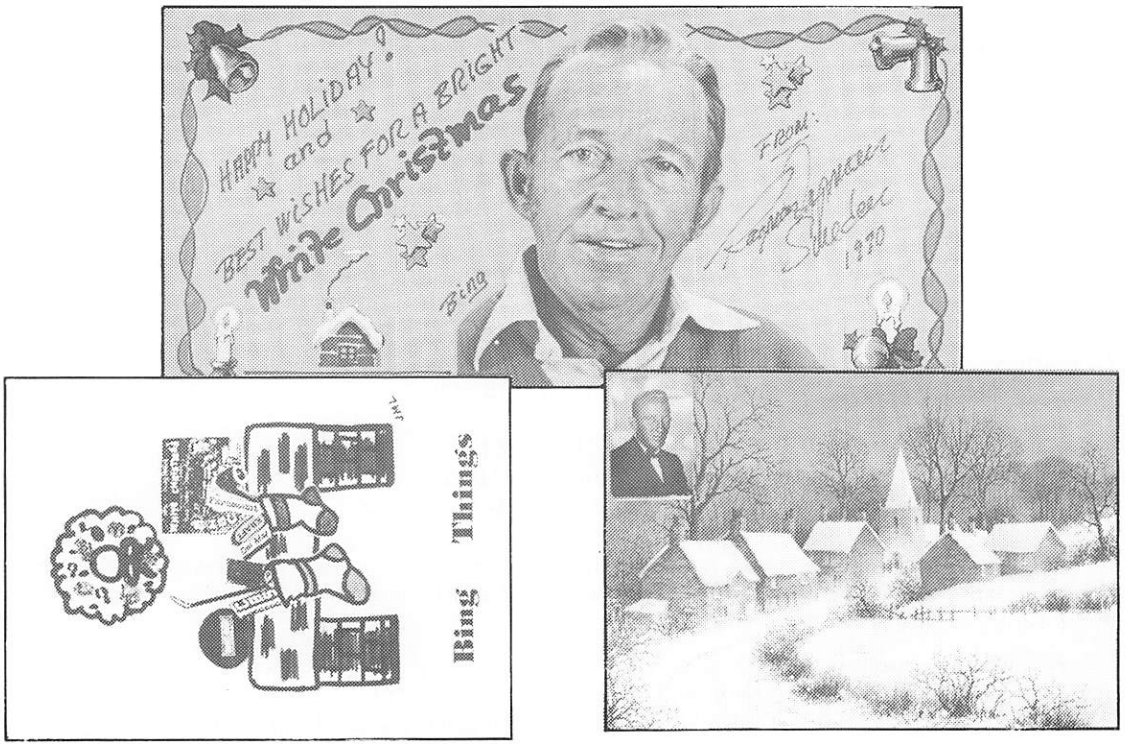
Records

Long Playing records featuring Bing have now virtually disappeared from the shops and it is a pleasure therefore to report that *JONZO 13* has just been released. We are particularly anxious that this series is well supported and urge members to buy two copies of each release. If you cannot get copies locally then please write to Ray Purslow at the Record Centre or contact John McNicholas at: 18 Greer Road, Harrow Weald, Middlesex HA3 6JF.

And so friends it is time to take leave until August. May I thank you all for your continuing support and loyalty and where replies are overdue I will be in contact soon.

Michael Crampton

CROSBY CHRISTMAS CARDS



One of the joys of Bing's association with Christmas is the proliferation of Crosby Christmas cards. Last December we received some interesting cards and these are shown on this page. The "Bing Things" cards came from Bob and Joyce Lundberg. "White Christmas" from Ragnar Uppman and the village scene from Trevor Wagstaff and family. Many thanks for the seasonal wishes to all of you who sent greetings.

BING ON THE BOX

Well, what a bonanza we've had in recent months! British television, particularly the BBC, had done us proud and we must express our grateful thanks for the many film shown. All of the Road films (with the exception of 'Hong Kong') in sequence, Bing as "Film Star of the Week" in TV times and even a Bing puppet in Spitting Image. We really cannot have any cause for complaint if we have a lean time in the next few months but let's keep the momentum going by writing to the TV companies and asking for more. My 14 year old daughter, Alison, has even taken up her pen after seeing me watching a poor quality version of "High Time". She received a reply from the BBC which said that they did not currently hold the rights to show "High Time" but that they would make a note of her request. I'm sure it all helps.

FILM STAR OF THE WEEK
★Bing Crosby★

The 'Old Groaner' goes to the dogs in C4's Thursday musical *The Emperor Waltz* — quite literally, because it is his fox terrier and Joan Fontaine's poodle that bring them together! Naturally, Bing (born Harry Lillis Crosby in 1901) gets to sing as well as romance a lot, but none of the numbers is in the same class as his most famous, *White Christmas*. He first warbled the immortal Irving Berlin ballad in *Holiday Inn* in 1941. The following year he made the recording that became the biggest-selling record ever released. 'I never thought it would be a hit,' Bing once said. 'Just me and a pianist did the piece and it snowballed' (ouch!). Bing sang it on screen again in *White Christmas* (1954) and it remained his most popular request right up to his sudden death from a heart attack after a round of golf, his favourite sport, in 1977. **TVT**

●**Bing's best films were:** 1930: *King of Jazz*; 1936: *Anything Goes*; 1940: *Road to Singapore*, the first of seven 'Road' comedies with Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour; 1944: *Going My Way* (for which he won an Oscar); 1945: *The Bells of St Mary's*; 1949: *A Yankee at King Arthur's Court*; 1950: *Riding High*; 1954: *The Country Girl* (an Oscar nomination); 1956: *High Society*; and 1964: *Robin and the Seven Hoods*.

For the record, here are the items seen since the last edition of BING.

The Emperor Waltz	(Channel 4 — 1/11/90)
The Bells of St. Mary's	(Sky — 8/11/90, 18/11/90, 30/11/90 and 16/2/91)
The Movies Go To War	(Channel 4 — 29/11/90)
Road to Singapore	(BBC2 15/11/90)
Road to Zanzibar	(BBC2 22/11/90)
Road to Morocco	(BBC2 29/11/90)
Road to Utopia	(BBC2 6/12/90)
Going My Way	(BBC1 7/12/90)
Spitting Image	(Central 2/12/90)
Frank Sinatra: The Voice	(Central 3/12/90)
Road to Rio	(BBC2 14/12/90)
Good Morning Britain	(Central 18/12/90)
Road to Bali	(BBC2 20/12/90)
White Christmas	(BBC1 23/12/90)
Sounds Like Christmas	(Central 26/12/90)
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court	(BBC1 1/1/91)
You're The Top — The Cole Porter Story	(Channel 4 1/1/91)
Dixie	(BSB 21/2/91)

The film "The Movies go to War" was a compilation showing how various movie stars played their part in entertaining the troops in World War 2. Bing was seen on several occasions and the rarest item was Bing singing "Junk Ain't Junk No More" on the soundtrack.

"Good Morning Britain" featured the Bing 'N' Bowie duet from the 1977 TV show as part of a series on great Christmas records. The same extract was used in "Sounds Like Christmas", a programme which looked at No. 1 Christmas hits. As part of this, several people were interviewed in the street and asked for their favourite Christmas song. There were six interviews and two people picked Bing and "White Christmas". The others picked Band Aid, John Lennon, Wham and U2. (What would Reg Bristo have said at this point?). The most pleasing aspect however was the words used by one interviewee:

"White Christmas, Bing Crosby. He's the man, he's the guvnor."

I couldn't have said it better! I have often wondered though whether "White Christmas" would have become such a major hit if it hadn't come out in wartime.

The Bing puppet on Spitting Image was used as part of a sketch called "No More Christmas Singles" and as "Bing" starts to sing "White Christmas" he is flattened by an off screen fist. Not the ideal way to see Bing featured but it is encouraging to note that in 1990, his image is instantly recognisable even on a contemporary programme.

"You're The Top" told the story of Cole Porter and Bing was seen singing that very song with Ethel Merman in the 1936 version of Anything Goes. There was a brief extract from the 1956 film of the same name showing Mitzi Gaynor singing the title song. Also, Bing and Grace Kelly were featured with "True Love" from High Society.

The Sinatra show listed above was a tribute to Frank on his 75th birthday and the particular interest for Bing fans was several excerpts from the Edsel TV Show which was originally shown in 1957. The excerpts were apparently provided by the Gonzaga Library and can we therefore assume that they have the whole show? The Sinatra tribute on Central was followed immediately by a showing of Frank's film "The Joker is Wild" which features a version of "June in January". That magnificent book "The Road to Hollywood" states that this is by Bing and I understand that this is incorrect. Does anyone know who impersonates Bing in the film?

LIFE'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL AMERICANS OF THE CENTURY

Is the tide turning? Towards the end of last year the well known American magazine LIFE ran a special issue with what it regarded as the 100 most influential Americans of the 20th Century as its theme. The list contained some interesting inclusions — and indeed omissions. Happily — and significantly — Bing was in the 100. Also in was Elvis Presley. The omissions included Fred Astaire and Frank Sinatra. LIFE'S commentary on Bing is reproduced below.

"He would kind of cozy up to a microphone and burble a mellifluous flow of baritone buh-buh-buh-buh-buhs between phrases. Audiences sighed; tenors were out of business. The first singer to really cotton to the possibiities of amplification, Crosby had a soft, easy-going way with a song that inspired every major balladeer who followed. Frank Sinatra called him "the father of my career."

Born in Tacoma, Wash., Harry Lillis Crosby had his own radio show from the early '30s to the late '40s. He made movies as well. He hit the road seven times with Bob Hope, won an Oscar and introduced, in a 1942 musical, his biggest hit tune — "White Christmas." Crosby sold more records — 300 million — than any singer until Elvis. Like Presley, he died in 1977, at 73 meeting the blue of his nights as he left the eighteenth green of a golf course in Spain."

Letter from Leslie

Our esteemed correspondent from the Isle of Wight joins us once again. Some members will know that Leslie became a septuagenarian back in February, a milestone which was celebrated on radio by presenters Alan Dell and Gerry Didymus. Long may you continue to delight us, Leslie, and a belated "Happy Birthday" from everyone in the I.C.C.

As ever, may I begin by thanking the many members who sent Christmas cards and messages of goodwill. It is very encouraging indeed to know that I share a keen interest in the memory of Bing Crosby with so many other Crosby stalwarts.

I think I have to say, at least from the viewpoint of the British members, Bing had his fair share of time on radio and television over the Christmas period. I personally heard many of Bing's recordings played on the various stations and of course, we had six of the seven "Road" films on TV. I was pleased that they showed "White Christmas" once again I've always admired Irving Berlin's lovely song "The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing". Bing's treatment of "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep" has always been of great pleasure to me, together with the typical Crosby treatment of the verse from "What Can You Do With A General". Superb Bing vocal powers indeed.

Last October and December, I attended two meetings of the Sinatra Music Society in London. The first meeting was held in honour of the great British singer, Anne Shelton who was celebrating 50 years in showbusiness. I was interested to hear at this meeting what Anne had to say about her meeting with Bing during the war years, and again many years later when she was invited to meet him and his family at the Palladium. At the same time I had the pleasure of also renewing acquaintances with Alan Dell, Ken Barnes and Pete Moore who were all present. A nice touch at the December meeting was a special table especially reserved for Bing fans!

The orchestra leader Geoff Love was at the October meeting which reminded me of one of my first SMS meetings when Geoff said to me "Do you know, Leslie, I still haven't heard those Bing recordings that I was contracted to do for his Longines Symphonette Society boxed set!" I'd known for some time that Bing had added his voice to pre-recorded tracks but never that "Michael Piastro" was in fact Geoff Love!

Another outstanding meeting which I attended was the 40th Anniversary of the British Bing Club in Leeds back in October. It was really just fine to meet so many wonderful folk and to see their keen admiration for Bing. I must say that I was enthralled by the outstanding display of framed advertisements that Don Haizelden brought along. He can justly feel proud of such a wonderful collection.

On January 6 and 13 last, my good friend and broadcaster Alan Dell featured two of the many Bing tracks that I supplied him with for his "Sounds Easy" programme. Alan telephoned me one day and suggested that he and I join forces to let his listeners hear something different from Bing. "Let all the others play "Don't Fence Me In" and "Swinging On A Star" said Alan and between us we'll let them hear some of the lesser played, if at all, material.

This was indeed music to my ears and I readily co-operated and the end result has been most gratifying both to Alan and myself. The first recording Alan played was "Moments To Remember", followed a week later by "Look To Your Heart". I've always felt indebted to that great Bing admirer Geoff Milne for making these fine recordings available via "Rare Style". When this Ace Of Hearts LP came out in 1967 I airmailed Bing a copy and he wrote back saying that "there are six or seven songs on there that I don't remember doing". And just to show that he remained a commercial animal, Bing went on to say that he was going to take the album down to one of the San Francisco disc jockeys "to see if I can get him interested in playing some of the tunes".

I often talked to Bing in the fallow years of the Sixties as to why he didn't record more. Bing explained that so much was involved in making recordings. First there was the question of picking the right songs, then getting the arrangements done, then engaging the musicians, then booking the studio. . . . It's no good Leslie", said Bing "if my records just lie on dealers' shelves". Bing went on to say that there was a lot of money tied up in this, other people's money, and "I wouldn't want to be part of any financial losses" said Bing.

Bing was always more positive about getting his radio recordings released. He mentioned that much of the CBS radio material he had made with Buddy Cole and Rosemary Clooney were made with a twofold reason in mind — firstly for "air time" but also for the possibility of subsequent commercial release. Its such a pity that there is still so much of this CBS material which has not been used to keep Bing's memory alive. I remember a letter from Basil -Grillo at the Crosby office which really took the wind out of my sails. Basil said that any question of release of that material would depend on a view as to how they would sell. It has to make economic sense said Basil. But we live in hope. I may well write to the Vintage Jazz Classics label to see if they are interested in trying to acquire this material. I have second thoughts though since I have a hand written letter from Kathryn Crosby, written some years ago, stating that she had asked for all the CBS master tape material to be sent to her house.

Can I close by once again paying tribute to people like Alan Dell, Gerry Didymus and not forgetting "our own" Stan White who do so much for Bing's memory. And if there is a life hereafter, I think ol' Bing must have spirited himself on to people like Stateside member Ernest Sutkowski who does so much with his sterling work for radio stations in the USA. Keep up the good work lads!

Best wishes to all members

Leslie Gaylor

TRADING POST

Entries are free for all items of Crosbyana and there is a nominal charge of £1 for non-Crosby advertisements. All items are printed in good faith and we cannot accept responsibility for any dissatisfaction arising from transactions undertaken as a result of these entries.

Please send all advertisements to the Assistant Editor, Malcolm Macfarlane, whose address is given at the beginning of the magazine.

Bill Livesey, 39 O'Hagan Court, Brierfield, Burnley, Lancs (Phone: 0282 64418)

Bill is looking for a dance band enthusiast who could help him with versions of various 1938 vintage dance band favourites. Contact Bill direct please for details.

Jim Lowe, 35 St. Albans Court, New St., Willenhall, West Midlands.

"If anyone is into the "takes" lark would they contact me at the above address. I promise to refund any postage invovled."

(Asst. Editor: Jim is searching for a number of alternate takes which are proving rather elusive. A fascinating topic and if there are any experts who could help Jim, he would be delighted to hear from them. Also Jim is seeking a copy of the LP-ography. Can anyone help? Jim is moving house during April but should be in residence at the address shown by the end of the month.)

Barry Sandercock, 10 Captain Cook Close, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks HP8 4DS.

For Sale

Double audio cassettes NOSTALGIA series Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 includes songs "Can I Forget You/Song Of the Islands/Sail Along Silvery Moon/Let Me Call You Sweetheart/I have Eyes/When You Dream About Hawaii/ etc. etc. As new condition £5 incl. P. & P.

Wanted

Does anyone have the song "They Say" from KMH 19th January, 1937?

Ken Merry, 28 The Avenue, Bessacarr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN4 5JX.

For Sale

A dozen or so unplayed Bing LP's. Also some EP's. SAE for details.

Peter Murray, 5 Hyvot View, Edinburgh EH17 8PQ.

Peter is looking for cassettes of the following:-

Hollywood Palace Show 1st April 1967
Voice of America shows featuring Bing and Louis Armstrong — March 23rd to 26th inc. 1960.

If you can help in his search, please contact Peter direct.

Nancy and Larry Shannon, Hollywoods, 11 Mayfield Grove, Rhyl, Clwyd, North Wales.

"Having moved to a bigger house, Larry has furnished a bigger room for his 'den' with expensive Hi-Fi and taping equipment. He is therefore prepared to do tapes for members at a rather low rate. Any member wishing to write to Larry regarding tracks of Bing will be greatly rewarded, both at cost and value of tapes reproduction."

(Asst. Editor: All members should bear in mind copyright laws which only permit certain items to be dubbed.)

Mrs. June Manton, 65 OUndle Rd., Thrapston, Northants NN14 4PA.

I am a new member of the ICC and I have been trying to get the book by Kathryn Crosby "Bing And Other Things" which came out in the 1960s. Can anyone help me to obtain this?

Ray Purslow, The Record Centre, 45-46 Loveday St., Birmingham B4 6NR. (Tel. No. 021 359 7399)

Thanks again for an excellent magazine. It's really professional and you should feel very proud indeed.

I thought you should know as soon as possible about a forthcoming cassette only release "Bing And Friends". Cost should be between £4 and £4.75 plus p. and p.. We can supply but I would prefer enquiries first.

(Asst. Editor:- Ray continues to supply our members with a superb service and he will accept credit cards by telephone. The cassette appears to contain the Chesterfield Show of 29th February 1951 with Nat King Cole and The Andrews Sisters as guests).

Dan Cunningham, P.O. Box 1, Leon, 1A USA 50144 (515-446-6309)

I have in my possession a juke box. On the front it says "Project of Bing Crosby Research Foundation Junior Juke." I was wondering if you have any knowledge on this juke box. I would like to know the date it was made, and the value of this item.

I bought this at an antique auction, and I have had dealers calling me to see if I would sell it. I've checked with dealers on getting information about it, but no one can find anything about it. If you would know anyone interested in this juke box could you please have them contact me.

George Harwood, 5 Glebe Road, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 9DS.

George is another member who is able to help with taping. He cannot usually handle requests for individual items but please contact him direct for details.

Bert Day, 35 Galla Crescent, Dalbeattie, Scotland DG5 4JY.

> What I am trying to get hold of is a decent copy of the Eddie Rice/John Scott Trotter interview. I have it in very poor quality but would like a better version. I will of course pay for this or alternatively, I will swap material. I have some material which is not all that common which may be of interest. If anyone can help, please contact me direct.

Steve Thompson, 13 Avignon, Milford Grange, Castleroy, Limerick, Ireland possesses a fine collection of Bing commercial, radio and TV material, fully documented in Steve's impressive catalogue, which is available direct from Steve. For further information, contact Steve.

Gordon Hooper, 54 Devonport Road, Worthing, Sussex BN11 2SW has a great many films, shows etc available on VHS tape. Send foolscap SAE for details, or telephone 0903 33378. Gordon is also anxious to obtain US videos of Bings TV shows.

Stan Hester, PO Box 244, Milford, Michigan 48042, USA, reminds us that through his BROADWAY label, he has a number of Bing LPs available. Stan offers sizeable discounts to ICC members. Write for details.

Michael Crampton, 19 Carrholm Crescent, Leeds LS7 2NL is handling the disposal of two collections:-

The following items were gifted to the ICC by the late Dennis Steele. It was Dennis's wish that his collection be sold to help club funds and we sincerely hope that members will be generous when buying the LP or Book of their choice.

All items have a set price but if you can contribute more we will be eternally grateful.

Please add a minimum of £1.50 per order for postage and packing.

Larger parcels will require extra postage.

BOOKS

Call Me Lucky	UK hardback	£4.00
Bing (C. Thompson)	UK	£3.00
Bing Crosby (B. Bauer)	USA	£1.50
One and Only Bing (Thomas)	USA	£4.00
Films of Bing Crosby (Bookbinder)	USA	£10.00

MAGAZINES

Bing 65 to 92		£0.50 ea

RECORDS

Bing Crosby Treasury	Boxed Set	£6.00
Damaged box but LPs Ex.		
Bing Crosby Story	2 LP Set	£4.00
Bing Crosby In Hollywood	2 LP Set	£4.00
Bing 1975-76/1931	2 LP Set	£4.00

The following are all priced at £3.00

Bing and Satchmo (MGM), A Time To Be Jolly (Daybreak) New Tricks, Home On The Range, Songs I Wish I Had Sun (All Brunswick). Wrap Your Troubles In Dreams (RCA), Easy To Remember (Saville), Never Be Afraid (Gala), Distinctively Bing Vol. 1, P. Whiteman & His Orchestra (Col), Bing and Dixieland Bands, Bing In The Early Thirties (Ace of Hearts), Where The Blue Of The Night (Biograph), Rare Ones (Broadway), Best Of Bing, Song Of The Islands (MCA), Bing/Rosemary Clooney (RCA), Dance Band Days (Prism), Here Lies Love (ASV), Bing In The Thirties V 1 (JSP), Black Moonlight (Joy), Bing On The Air (Totem 1008). Bing Crosby Sings (Vocalion), Crosby Classics (Realm), 33 Great Songs (Warner Bros), Bing Crosby On The Air (Spokane 7), Bing Crosby Collection Vols 1, 2 & 3 (Col), I Love You Truly (Coral), Christmas Is A Comin (MCA), Bing Crosby — His Greatest Hits — (Musidisc), Bing Crosby — Live At The London Palladium — (K-Tel), Louise Armstrong & Bing Crosby On Stage (Windmill), I Grandi Del Jazz (Joker), Sing Along With Bing (P'wick), Hey Jude, Hey Bing (Amos), Mr. Crosby/Mr. Mercer (MFP), Bing & Co. (MCA), A Southern Memoir, Emperor's New Clothes (London), Beautiful Memories, Come Share The Wine, At My Time Of Life (United Artists), Seasons (Polydor), Feels Good Feels Right (Decca), Bing Crosby 20 Golden Greats-Vol 2- (Nostalgia).

Please order from Michael and make cheques payable to Michael Crampton ICC.

SALE OF 78's BY MEMBER ERIC JACKSON

Eric has reluctantly decided to sell his collection of 78's. He no longer has space to house them and therefore he wishes to make them available to members of the ICC.

The collection is for sale as a whole but Eric is willing to split the Bing and the Non-Bing if there is no offer for the whole collection.

There are 430 discs in total being split; 268 Bing Crosby, 192 Non-Bing. Non-Bing items include Bob Crosby, Louis Armstrong and various other items.

Suggested minimum bid for Bing Collection is £130, for Non-Bing £55.

Successful bidder will have to collect from Eric at his home near Rotherham or from him at the Annual Meeting in Leeds.

If you wish to see list of Bing records please write to Michael.

All bids should be addressed to Michael and he will notify successful bidder in June 1991.

Once again we ask members to be generous with their bids as the ICC will benefit from the sale.

Bing in 1956 . . . "High Society and the stunningly attractive Grace Kelly

Celluliod Crosby

Keith Parkinson, our resident film buff, marks the passing of one of Bing's favourite leading ladies.

Mary Martin (1913-1990)

"Mary Martin has a remarkably flexible style, adaptable to any type of song. A keen sense of humour gives her a particular dexterity with comic deliveries. She has an adequate range for semi-classical selections and can make you like a popular ballad"

Bing Crosby in an article for 'Music and Rhythm' magazine in 1942 called "My Ten Favourite Vocalists"

Bing, Mary and Jack Teagarden —
The Waiter and the Porter and the Upstairs Maid.

Mary Martin came to showbusiness comparatively late. She was twenty-five before she could command £200 as a nightclub singer. Her first memory of Bing is his request for her to sing 'Shoe Shine Boy' when she was appearing nightly at Hollywood's Casanova Club.

Her movie career got under way about the same time. She secured a bit part in the 1938 "Rage of Paris" and her first important role followed the year after in 'The Great Victor Herbert'. The timing was right for her short but impressive screen partnership with Bing. They only appeared together on screen in two pictures but both films turn up time and time again on the 'Ten Best' lists of Crosby Collectors. The movies were "Rhythm on the River" (1940) and "Birth of the Blues" the following year. Mary Martin is Bing's leading lady in both. In the first one she duetted 'Only Forever' with Bing during the film's closing minutes. John Scott Trotter's Orchestra accompanies and anticipated a radio relationship between all three parties which spanned the decade. MM's best remembered songs with Bing come from 'Birth of the Blue', "Wait Til That Sun Shines Nellie" and "The Waiter and The Porter and The Upstairs Maid" were reprised at several reunions between Bing and Mary over the next thirty years.

During filming for 'Birth of the Blues' she became pregnant with 'star of tomorrow' Larry Hagman. Son Larry prevented her from accepting the third Crosby film on offer — the leading lady in "Holiday Inn". The part went to an unpregnant Marjorie Reynolds. Her movie days with Bing were at an end unless one counts the Paramount Portmanteau effort 'Star Spangled Rhythm' (1942). She went on record as saying: "Making movies with Bing almost made Hollywood worthwhile. He was the most relaxed, comfortable, comforting man."

She appeared spasmodically in films for the next ten years or so but she did not sustain the impact of her earlier work with Bing. 'Happy Go Lucky" (1943), 'Night and Day' (1946) and 'Manhattan to Broadway' (1953) all had appearances by M.M. but other career demands were diverting her from the silver screen.

One such career tangent took her into radio and she debuted on the Kraft Music Hall at the end of July 1941. She was a regular on the Hall and continued to guest on Bing's radio shows for the next ten years. Good examples from this period are on the Startone Album ST-225 'Bing and Mary — Rhythm on the radio'.

The Broadway stage took care of her career from the late 'forties through to the 'sixties. Long running hits such as 'South Pacific', 'Peter Pan', and 'The Sound of Music' and 'I Do, I Do', meant she was never out of the public eye for long becaue of the publicity surrounding her musicals and the ensuing record album sales. By the time 20th Century-Fox filmed 'South Pacific' she was no longer considered cinema box-office and Mitzi Gaynor was Nellie Forbush as far as picturegoers were concerned. By the way of compensation, Richard Rodgers, who composed the music for 'South Pacific' made an album for R.C.A. That was twenty five years ago, but 'Mary Martin Sings and Richard Rodgers Plays' (piano) was considered worthy of re-issue in the late 'eighties.

In 1976 Mary Martin published her autobiography, 'My Heart Belongs'. It was an unsensational read, but by no means boring. Genuine warmth rather than a career switchback left the reader feeling satisfied.

Her last link with Bing came in 1987. WTTW Chicago produced the television programme 'Remembering Bing' which was networked in the States on November 28th of that year. That drew on her association with Bing and the programme was timed to mark the tenth anniversary of Bing's death. Shortly afterwards she was involved in a car accident and by then her showbusiness career had ended.

Mary Martin died of cancer on November 4th 1990.

She herself predicted how she would be remembered. In the early nineteen fifties she had a minor hit record with her son Larry. It was called 'Get Out Those Old Records'.

* * * * * * * * * *

In the last BING, Keith Parkinson listed a number of films released during the 1980's which featured Bing's voice on the soundtrack. We can now add another:-

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) — in which Bing and The Andrews Sisters can be heard singing "Mele Kalikimaka."

Lionel's Lines

Lionel Pairpoint' focus this time around is the Swinging Sixties — and yet another Crosby first. Over to you, Lionel . . .

Squirrel on a Treadmill

"There's no question in my mind as to what TV format would be best for me. I'm investigating the possibility of a filmed half-hour show, employing motion picture techniques. . . . Anybody who goes into television should be sparing in how much they do. No entertainer who's in everyone's home once a week can survive very long. If a new motion picture of mine were released each week for fifty two weeks — I soon wouldn't have many friends coming to the theatre to see me".

The above quotations are from 'Call Me Lucky', published in 1953 and this lucubration was repeated, by Bing, in sundry interviews, for the next ten years and although there were television specials and guest appearances, he stuck to his guns until 1964 when he agreed to appear in a weekly 'sitcom' series for ABC.

The domestic format revolved around a middle-aged couple with two young daughters and a long-staying friend. Bing was 'Bing Collins', an engineer who is also a consultant at a nearby university with memories of a brief brush with showbiz in his past.

Thirty-eight year old, Beverly Garland who had appeared in minor Hollywood films of the Fifties had enjoyed some moderate success already, as an undercover policewoman in the 1957 television series 'Decoy' was selected to play his wife, Ellie. Carol Faylen played their 16 year old daughter, Joyce and Diane Sherry, the 11 year old, Janice. Frank McHugh completed the menage as war-time pal, Willie, the man who came to dinner (and never left!).

In retrospect, the 28-part series of half-hour shows is described as "moderately pleasant but entirely unremarkable" and I find myself in no position to confirm or deny this criticism. The twelve episodes purchased by the BBC were screened in 1965 B.V. (Before Video), a time when I had a very young family and other commitments which allow me only faint memories of seeing two or three of these shows.

All that remains to me and I would suspect, many others, is an audio tape which reflects the entire musical content of the series.It would appear that Bing was guilty of a modicum of pre-show hype when he claimed, "there's so much music in the show . . . ", as the 90 minute tape represents an average of less than three minutes per episode and rightly so, as the musical interludes were merely incidental to the storylines. Nonetheless, it is true, that Bing did raise his voice in every programme although the enthusiast may find, to some degree, the end product, fragmentary and unsatisfying.

The plots enable him to warble a variety of numbers with which we have become familiar, over the years, as part of his portfolio — "The Little Things In Life'; 'Them There Eyes'; a complete version of 'Sweet Georgie Brown' with whistling and 'scatting'; an uninterrupted performance of 'How Deep Is The Ocean?'; 'You're Getting To Be A Habit With Me'; 'It Had To Be You'; an urbane and fairly whole version of 'Night And Day'; there are raids on the 'standards' file for 'Birth Of The Blues', 'You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To', 'South Of The Border' and (slightly marred by extraneous sound effects), 'Mountain Greenery'. Beverly Garland whose lack of vocal ability is built into a running gag by the 'family', joins Bing for several numbers, including 'Shuffle Off To Buffalo' and adds to the long list of previous duettists for 'You're Just In Love'.

Among the more unusual items on offer are 'Annie Laurie' and 'The Campbells Are Coming' — in Danish, no less!; a 'breakneck' version of 'My Wild Days Are Over'; some experiments with rhythm and blues, notably, Ray Charles' 'Hallelujah, I Love Her So' with *real* son, Gary, who guested on a couple of shows and, with Mel Torme, the Mills Brothers' hit, 'Smack Dab In The Middle'; other 'oldies' that are turned over include, 'In A Shanty In Old Shanty Town', 'You Can't Get Along With 'Em Or Without 'Em', Jack Teagarden's theme song, 'I Gotta Right To Sing The Blues' and a lighthearted session with Phil Harris featuring, 'Baby Face', 'The Prisoner's Song' and 'Bye, Bye, Blackbird'.

As might be expected, the Christmas edition contains the most music. Bing takes the opportunity to review two of his most recent seasonal recordings, 'Christmas Candles' and 'We Wish You The Merriest', in addition to 'Do You Hear What I Hear?'; 'Mrs. Collins' has a whirl at (what must be the slimmer's version), 'I'm Dreaming of A Why-Eat Christmas' but luckily, her husband takes up the theme and manages to sound remarkably like Bing Crosby!

Far and away, the most unique item, however, is a dip into the Gilbert & Sullivan songbook when he sings, unaccompanied and with casual gusto, 'When I Was A Lad' from 'HMS Pinafore'!

So, why did 'The Bing Crosby Show' slide in the ratings? Apparently, there was some genuine family contention even before the series went into production. Kathryn Crosby modestly suggests that, "a much more natural choice" (than Beverley Garland), "was ready, willing, and able and waiting in the wings", possibly overlooking the fact that she was only 30, looked younger, and was required to play the mother of a teenage daughter. She goes on to say, "I wasn't the only one who complained. Rosemary Clooney refused to watch the show, insisting that Bing was betraying her, before the whole nation, with 'that other woman' ". To some, this illustrates the dangers

of having a tongue-in-cheek remark, taken at its face value.

Bing with television wife Beverley Garland

Kathryn had also written a theme song for the show, entitled, 'Love Overlooks Those Little Things'. Music for the piece was furnished by John Scott Trotter, Rosemary Clooney recorded a demonstration tape but the song was rejected for "a mere Jimmy Van Heusen number" and, in fact, Kathryn's only consolation came from a cameo scene in one of the programmes.

The series certainly opened to good reviews. Most agreed with the New York Post critic who wrote, "ABC, which is putting its new programme wares in the window this week, didn't exactly stop the traffic with its first display. Not, at least, until Bing Crosby came on for his debut as TV family-comedy father. Crosby, who always made everything look like a 'look Mom, one hand' cinch, made this look easy, as well. The TV household it appeared, could be so downright, comfortably dull that it may become charming".

Could the very cosiness of this 'nice' family have been responsible for the sharp decline in audience figures? I have a pet theory that some of the most successful television series are populated by either unpleasantly eccentric or extremely unlikeable people — Would you welcome Alf Garnett or Basil Fawlty as your next-door neighbours? Or, long to have any of the characters in 'Dynasty' or 'Coronation Street' as a best friend?

Would a more sparing form of presentation have benefited the series? The BBC spread the (original) thirty episodes of 'Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em' over 5 years. All 28 programmes of 'The Bing Crosby Show' were reeled off in the space of 31 weeks, a process inherent to sponsored broadcasting and I must sympathise with Bing's bitter comment, "It's a rat race! If you don't get a rating, they dump you."

Bearing in mind the ambivalent nature of the quotes which open this essay, a more pertinent question might be, 'Why did Bing get involved?' The production regime sounds particularly punishing and most un-Binglike. He was commuting to Hollywood from his Hillsborough home, filming five shows in three weeks then taking two weeks of. At this time he was suffering from recurrent, painful attacks of bursitis and he wrote to Kathry, "The work isn't too difficult but it's constant and all other activities and interests must be excluded. We work stright through from 8 am to 7 pm every day. By the time I bathe and dress for dinner, it's 9 o'clock and I collapse into bed at 10."

It is reported that "he hated the show and hated doing it" and "it took up more of his time than it was worth to him". A further supposition suggested, "interest in the show seemed to slide with Bing's own interest" and indeed, there maybe some indication that this was a duty rather than a pleasure when he explained, "Why am I doing this series? — I have to do something. I wanted to stay in the business and there didn't seem to be any feature films available. I have all these people working for me in Bing Crosby Productions. When they say, 'How about you doing a show for us?'. What are you going to say, 'Go to Hell?' — I still have time to play golf, hunt and fish. But there are certain things I have to do".

It is no secret that Bing preferred radio to television which had become the only game in town but nothing will convince me that he didn't want this series to be a success and didn't give of his best to make it so.

There is no doubt, however, that public entertaining is a very difficult occupation to retire from, as evidenced from this final quotation, again from his autobiographer — "I don't have to work at all if I don't want to. The reason I don't quit is that I've stayed in the entertainment business so long, I've become a squirrell on a treadmill. I can see no end to my road, so I can't jump off".

I'm glad you didn't jump off, Bing and I know a few fellas who'd like all of those fourteen hours on video tape.

Lionel Pairpoint

*(**Editor's** postscript: Many thanks to Lionel for yet another original piece. Members will, I am sure, be interested to know that we plan to launch a major feature on Bing's TV work, commencing in the next issue. In the meantime, Malcolm Macfarlane would be interested to hear from anyone possessing further information about the half hour series discussed above - particularly episode titles, guests, synopses of plots etc.)*

THE MAKERS OF WOODBURY FACIAL SOAP PRESENT BING CROSBY

by Malcolm Macfarlane

During 1933, Bing had been busy filming "College Humor" followed by "Too Much Harmony" before starting work on "Going Hollywood". He was making many records and on Radio, he had been sponsored by Chesterfield to appear in the "Music That Satisfies" series on Wednesday and Saturday nights. It is said that Bing's contract with Chesterfield was terminated after he had refused to do a commercial for Mother's Day because his own mother was anti-smoking. Bing then switched to Woodbury and his first appearance was on Monday October 16th, 1933. In all he appeared in 72 half hour shows over the Columbia Broadcating System with the final outing being on June 11th, 1935. We are told that Woodbury fired Bing because they did not like the way he talked. This was at a time when Bing was developing the relaxed speaking delivery which became his trademark. As we all know, Bing went on to the Kraft Music Hall and never looked back. Ironically, he replaced Paul Whiteman on the Kraft show and Whiteman then went to . . . Woodbury.

Very little information has been available previously about Bing's Woodbury shows although Larry Kiner did plan to issue a booklet covering them. To the best of my knowledge that booklet was never issued and in an effort to discover more about the Woodbury series, we appealed for information in BING 95. Bob Lundberg of BINGthings Society responded and his initial letter was published in BING 96. In one of his articles, Bob had used some information about a Woodbury show which had been provided by a friend of his in Tacoma, Tony Sponarich. Howard Levine, one fo the foremost Crosby collectors in the world, became interested and was put in touch with Tony. The two men collaborated in further research and Howard then compiled all of the available information which Bob published in his magazine, BINGtalks. Bob has kindly authorised us to publish the listing of the shows and we very gratefully acknowledge the tremendous work done by Howard Levine and Tony Sponarich. Any further information about the shows would be welcome but for now, here are the details supplied to us. Contributions by guest artistes have been omitted in order to save space.

Programme 1

Monday, October 16th 1933

Announcer: Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra and 18 year old songstress, Mary Lou Raymond. Bing Sings:

- ★ Thanks
- ★ Tomorrow
- ★ The Last Round-up (from Revue "The New Ziegfield Follies")

Programme No. 2

Monday, October 23rd 1933

Announcer: Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra and 18 year old songstress, Mary Lou Raymond. Bing sings:-

- ★ The Day You Came Along
- ★ To Be Or Not To Be (In Love)
- ★ Goodbye, Love
- ★ I Would If I Could But I Can't

Programme No. 3

Monday, October 30th 1933

Announced by Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra. Bing sings:-

- ★ This Is Romance
- ★ Shame On You
- ★ Three Wishes
- ★ After Sundown

Programme No. 4

Monday, November 6th 1933

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra. Bing sings:-

- ★ Temptation
- ★ Beautiful Girl
- ★ Ah, But Is It Love? (from film "Moonlight and Pretzels")

Programmes Nos. 5 to 7

Mondays, November 6th to November 30th 1933

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra

No other information available.

Programme No. 8

Monday, December 4th 1933

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra. Bing opened the programme with:-

- ★ Where The Blue Of The Night

No other information available

Programme No. 9

Monday, December 11th 1933

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra and Kay Thompson & Her Rhythm Kings. Bing sings:-

- ★ The Last Round-Up
- ★ Bless Your Heart
- ★ Beautiful Girl
- ★ Temptation

Programme No. 10

Monday, December 18th 1933

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra and The Mills Brothers. Bing sings:-

- ★ Heaven Only Knows
- ★ Goodnight, Little Girl Of My Dreams
- ★ Night And Day
- ★ Thanks

Programme No. 11

Monday, December 25th 1933

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra and The Mills Brothers.

No other information available.

Programme No. 12

Monday, January 1st 1934

Announcer: Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra. The Mills Brothers and Kay Thompson & Her Rhythm Kings.

No information is available other than that in addition to singing, Bing also assumed a commentator's role with a report on The Rose Bowl Game he had witnessed earlier in the day between Stanford and Columbia.

Programme No. 13

Monday, January 8th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Lennie Hayton and his Orchestra and The Mills Brothers.

No other information available

Programme Nos. 14 to 17

Mondays, January 15th to February 5th 1934

Announcer: Ken Niles. With Gus Arnheim and his Orchestra and The Mills Brothers

No other information available

Programme No. 18

Monday, February 12th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Gus Arnheim and hi Orchestra and The Mills Brothers. Bing sings:-

* Last Year's Girl (with The Mills Brothers)
* Dancing In The Moonlight

No other information available

Programme No. 19

Monday, February 19th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Gus Arnheim and his Orchestra and The Mills Brothers. Bing sings:-

* So Shy
* Love Locked Out
* Our Big Love Scene

Programme No. 20

Monday, February 26th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Gus Arnheim and his Orchestra and The Mills Brothers.

No information available

Programme No. 21

Monday, March 5th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Carroll Lofner's Beverly Wilshire Orchestra and The Mills Brothers.

The only known information is that Bing and The Mills Brothers sang a medley of songs.

Programmes No. 22 to 24

Mondays, March 25th to March 26th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Carroll Lofner's Beverly Wilshire Orchestra and possibly The Mills Brothers.

No other information available.

Programme No. 25

Monday, April 2nd 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Jimmie Grier and his Orchestra and guest, Carole Lombard. Bing sings:-

* I Positively Refuse To Sing
* Love Thy Neighbour
* Once In A Blue Moon

Bing and Carole Lombard performed a scene from their new film, "We're Not Dressing".

Programmes Nos. 26 to 32

Mondays, April 9th to May 21st 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Jimmie Grier and his Orchestra.

No further information available.

Programme No. 33

Monday, May 28th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Jimmie Grier and his Orchestra. Bing sings:-

* May I? (Part only)
* With My Eyes Wide Open, I'm Dreaming (from film "Shoot The Works")
* I Knew You When
* Ridin' Around In The Rain
* The House Is Haunted (By The Echo Of Your Last Goodbye) (From Revue "The New Ziegfield Follies")
* Goodnight. A Thousand Goodnights
* May I?
* Where The Blue Of The Night (Part only)

(Note:- An edited version of the programme was issued on Fanfare Records LP-40-140 "Great Singers Of The 1930's — Live Broadcasts")

BING THEN WENT ON VACATION

Programme No. 34

Tuesday, September 18th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra, with guests, The Boswell Sisters. Bing sings:-

Love In Bloom (Part only)
I'm Human' I'm Whistlin', I'm Singin'
I Kiss Your Hand Madame (part only)
Just A-Wearyin' For You
Love In Bloom
The Very Thought Of You (part only)

(Note:- The complete programme was issued on Spokane 1 "Bing Crosby — On The Air" and on Totem LP 1008 "Bing Crosby On The Air)

Programme No. 35

Tuesday, September 25th 1934

Announcer: Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Boswell Sisters. Bing sings:-

* Pardon My Southern Accent
* I Love You Truly
* Long May We Love
* The Very Thought Of You

Programmes Nos. 36 to 40

Tuesday October 2nd to October 30th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests. The Boswell Sisters.

No other information available.

Programme No. 41

Tuesday, November 6th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Boswell Sisters. Bing sings:-

* A New Moon Is Over My Shoulder (from film "Student Tour")
* I Saw Stars

No other information available

Programme No.42

Tuesday, November 13th 1934

Announcer: Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Boswell Sisters. Bing sings:-

* If I Had A Million Dollars (from film "Transatlantic Merry-go-round")
* Out In The Cold Again
* Dinah (from nightclub revue 'Plantation Revue")
* Love In Bloom

Programme No. 43

Tuesday, November 20th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Boswell Sisters. Bing sings:-

* Stars Fell On Albama
* The Sweetheart Waltz

No other information available

Programme No. 44

Tuesday, November 27th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Boswell Sisters.

No information available

Programme No. 45

Tuesday, December 4th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Boswell Sisters. Bing sings:-

* June In January
* Have A Little Dream On Me
* One Night Of Love (from film of same name)

Programme No. 46

Tuesday, December 11th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests. The Boswell Sisters.

No information available

Programme No. 47

Tuesday, December 18th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Boswell Sisters and Pinky Tomlin. Bing sings:-

* With Every Breath I Take (part only)
* Love Is Just Around The Corner
* Stay As Sweet As You Are
* Just A-Wearyin' For You
* With Every Breathe I Take

Programme No. 48

Tuesday, December 25th 1934

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Boswell Sisters. Bing sings:-

* I Woke Up Too Soon
* If I Had A Million Dollars
* Be Still, My Heart!
* Silent Night

Programmes No. 49 to 50

Tuesdays, January 1st and January 8th 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Boswell Sisters.

No information available.

Programme No.51

Tuesday, January 15th 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Mills Brothers. Bing sings:-

* An Earful Of Music (from film "Kid Millions")

No other information available.

Programme No. 52

Tuesday, 22nd January 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Mills Brothers.

Bing offered hit tunes from his most recent movies.
No other information available.

Programmes No. 53 and 54

Tuesdays, January 29th to February 5th 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Mills Brothers.

No information available.

Programme No. 55

Tuesday, February 12th 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests. The Mills Brothers. Bing sings:-

* Down By The River
* Soon
* It's Easy To Remember

No other information available.

Programmes No. 56 to 62

Tuesday, February 19th to April 2nd 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra.

No information available other than that The Mills Brothers were guests on programmes 56 to 58.

Programme No. 63

Tuesday, April 9th, 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, The Mills Brothers. Bing sings:-

* My Heart Is An Open Book (from film "Love In Bloom")

No other information available.

Programme No. 64

Tuesday, April 16th 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra. Bing sings:-

* Let Me Sing You To Sleep With A Love Song (from film "Love In Bloom")
* Restless

No other information available.

Programme No. 65

Tuesday, April 23rd 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra with guests, Marian Mansfield and Charles Irwin. Bing sings:-

* Ole Faithful (part only)
* Blame It On My Youth
* It's Easy To Remember
* Ole Faithful
* Lullaby Of Broadway
* Clouds (part only)

(Note:- The complete programme was issued on Avenue International AV.INT 1018 "Bing Crosby At His Extra Speciale" and on Spokane 12 "Bing In The Thirties")

Programme No. 66

Tuesday, April 30th 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra. Bing sings:-

* Star Dust
* Lost My Rhythm, Lost My Music, Lost My Gal
* It's Easy to Remember

No other information available.

Programmes No. 67 and 68

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra.

No other information available.

Programme No. 69

Tuesday, May 21st 1935

Announcer:- Ken Miles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra. Bing sings:-

- ★ Ev'rything's Been Done Before (from film "Reckless")
- ★ There's A Little Picture Playhouse In My Heart
- ★ Down By The River

No other information available.

Programme No. 70

Tuesday, May 28th 1935

Announcer: Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra. Guest:- Andy Devine.

No further information available

Programme No. 71

Tuesday, June 4th 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra. Guest:- Mildred Stone.

No other information available.

Programme No. 72

Tuesday, June 11th 1935

Announcer:- Ken Niles. With Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra. Bing sings:-

- ★ I Wished On The Moon

No other information available.

BINGS SISTER DIES

We were too late to record the death of Mary Rose Pool in our last issue. She died on Thursday or Friday Sept. 20th/21st and had been in a nursing home for some time. Born on May 3rd 1906, as a child she was described as plump and easy going in Ted Crosby's book "The Story of Bing Crosby." The very young Bing came to her defence when someone called her "fatty" and he went on to win a fist-fight with another schoolboy. According to that infamous book "The Hollow Man" Bing left Mary Rose $20,000 in his will. The book suggests that it had been expected that the bequest would be several hundred thousand dollars but only a token amount was left to her because she had been twice divorced. We have no idea about the truth or otherwise of this allegation. The death of Mary Rose leaves Bob Crosby as the only surviving brother of Bing. His other sister, Catherine, died in 1974.

OTHER OBITUARIES

The death of **Mary Martin** is mentioned elsewhere and in addition since the last BING we have lost four other personalities who played a part in the Crosby legend — Xavier Cugat, William Paley, Joan Bennet and Danny Thomas. **Xavier Cugat** made records with Bing in the forties and they probably met at the Cocoanut Grove where Cugat's band played during the intervals. **Bill Paley** was President of CBS and in 1931, he heard Bing's record of "I Surrender Dear" whilst on an Ocean liner. He cabled New York immediately and this eventually led to Bing's historic first solo broadcast in September 1933. **Joan Bennett** starred in two films with Bing — "Mississippi" and "Two For Tonight". **Danny Thomas** had Bing on his TV show twice, the first time in 1966 when they made "The Road To Lebanon" and then in 1967 when Bing starred in "The Demon Under The Bed".

It is a sad fact that the obituary section of BING will inevitably grow as more and more contemporaries of Bing pass away.

BING SWINGS

This headline in the Nottingham Evening Post naturally drew our attention. Soccer fans will know that Nottingham Forest have a player called Gary Crosby and the Club manager, Brian Clough, has given him the nickname of "Bing". The local newspapers have picked this up and we now see frequent references to "Bing" on the sportspages. Is Brian Clough a fan of our man? We shall have to write to him.

August 1977 – Guests at the Savoy, London who were waiting for a taxi were surprised to see The Old Groaner himself appear from the lobby, complete with cap and silk scarf.

One Sweet Letter From You

Malcolm Macfarlane as Assistant Editor deals with general correspondence with members. Malcolm will be very pleased to hear from members and his address is given at the beginning of the magazine.

Ted Laker, 36 Villers Rd., Southsea, Hants PO5 2HQ

Many thanks for the complimentary copy of BING, a magazine that anyone would be proud to have produced, it's something that the organisers of the past aimed at, but seldom achieved, though I hasten to add there was always bags of enthusiasm. Even in the darkest days when the mag. was reduced to just a few pages Bing still shone through. I had a fascinating read of the magazine, the years rolled away and I was back at London meetings, sometimes at Bill Taylor's home and a couple of times it was Jack Manners. All manner of Crosby addicts were there, even at times bringing along heavy old film projectors, plus equally hefty tape recorders, no video machines or cassette players then!! Of all the names, then as now Leslie Gaylor ranks pretty high . . . Once again thanks for recalling old memories . . .

(Asst. Editor: Ted was a stalwart of the Club in the 1960's and we have only recently tracked him down again. We sent him a copy of BING for old times sake and it seems to have been appreciated!)

Stan White, 57 Stanley St., Rothwell, Kettering, Northants NN14 2EA.

Having now had the time to digest the contents of BING 96, I would like to congratulate all concerned with the planning and production, plus the contributors, for an excellent issue. Obviously with the tighter layout, the format had to be more pleasing, but the articles are so good that it is almost an insult to single out any one contribution for a special mention, because they are all interesting, and reflect a lot of thought and research. Even the letters are good, so that whether or not one agrees with everything expressed in articles or letters, all praise to those that take the trouble to write this material . . .

I must mention the letter from Joseph M. Groom, as it backs up exactly what I was trying to say about people only having the memory of an older Bing, unless they are 50 and upwards. The other point I was trying to make is that Bing was so famous that people took that fame for granted, and still tend to do so in Bing circles. Whilst it is true that you can never take fame away from him because it was fact, it has to be faced that people under the age of 50 never knew Bing when he was that famous, and consequently, he is not so well known today by those under 50 . . .

(Asst. Editor:- Thanks for the kind words, Stan. We were happier with the magazine last time. However it was not perfect. For various reasons, instead of the usual 32 pages, we had over 40. This increased the printer's bill for the edition by £100 and put £60 on the postage bill. Some of the material had not been proof-read and inevitably, there were a few errors. The contents page went a little awry as well. Still, the final result did give us a more interesting magazine and at least the 'notorious' spaces had gone. Members will recall that we intend to progressively issue the covers from the Crosby Collectors with each BING but these were held back last time because of the postage bill. Hopefully you will receive the first covers with this edition. Michael Crampton received a tremendous number of letters from members as they renewed their subs and he sends apologies to those who did not get personal replies. Many of the letters commented on the magazine and just a few extracts are given below.)

Tony Heasman, 34 Ribblesdale Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 3NG.

. . . I must say I like the new style BING very much, especially the front page photograph (wish it was in colour).

John Fleming, 12 Middle St. North, Driffield, East Yorkshire YO25 7SN.

. . . I found the contents of BING 96 very enjoyable and as usual some nice fresh new material included. We are never disappointed, always some fresh item to make us say to ourselves "I never knew that" . . .

Chas Martin, 5 Juniper Drive, Parkhill, Coventry CV5 7QH.

I am just listening to my JONZO Vol. 13 (which is a gem), just coming into the era when I discovered Bing (I was aged 9!). Great songs and better to come – hopefully Jonzo can sustain the effort. . . .

Roy Irvine, 39 Galwally Avenue, Belfast BT8 4AJ.

. . . During 1990, I have been a guest on BBC Radio Ulster once or twice a month. I bring along some records and discuss these with local presenter Walter Love in a Sunday programme fo the over-forties. There are 6, 7 or 8 records of nostalgia popular records on each programme and I always try to include at least one of Bing's . . .

(Well done, Roy. So many of our members are busy keeping Bing's name alive. In particular, Ernest Sutkowski has been very active in this area for some time and it's nice to be able to publish the following appeal from him.)

Ernest H. Sutkowski, 20 Baldwin Rd., Saddle River, New Jersey 07458, USA

An open letter to Bing Crosby fans everywhere:

Jeanne and I have a little retreat home in Siesta Key, Florida which we enjoy from time to time with our family and friends. During a recent visit, I discovered one of the Music Of Your Life stations, WAMR (Sarasota-Venice-Bradenton area). As most of you know, the accomplished musician-song writer-business-gentleman, Al Ham, founded the Music Of Your Life concept and has done very well.

Because we are somewhat active while vacationing, we do not have time to listen to the radio except for a few hours during the week. During some of that brief listening time, I was very pleased, indeed, to hear three separate Bing Crosby recordings over WAMR:

"This Is A Great Country"; "It's Been A Long, Long Time"; and "Knees Up, Mother Brown" (with Rosemary Clooney). I thought that it was quite wonderful to hear such a nice variety of tunes by Bing instead of the usual "Swinging On A Star".

If you agree with me and wish to encourage more plays of Bing over the 160 or so Music Of Your Life stations, please consider writing such a request directly to Al Ham, President, Music Of Your Life, 90 Soundview Avenue, Huntington, Conneticut 06484. Cards and letters from Bing fans all over the United States and from England, Canada, Australia, and the many other countries where Bing's fans abound, indeed, would be most impressive.

We owe it to Bing and, of course, to ourselves. Who else is there? The net effect might be more plays of Bing's recordings heard by millions of listeners.

Ken Heason, 7 Winster Avenue, Carlton, Nottingham

Whilst junk-shopping recently, I found a Brunswick 78 with News Chronicle Competition Record on the label. Bing's "Young and Healthy" on one side and Wayne King's Orchestra playing "Japanese Sandman" on the reverse. Brunswick A1456.

Can anyone enlighten me as to what competition it was, and why and when?

In Praise of John McNicholas (nobly assisted by Alan Dell, Hubert Gregg and Benny Green)

by John Bignell

All good men and true, members of the International Bing Crosby Circle, and also the strong contingent of loyal and knowledgeable ladies who swell our ranks will be well aware of the stupendous project THE CHRONOLOGICAL BING CROSBY which was launched with two albums in October 1984.

The producer, John McNicholas, had the tremendously ambitious idea of presenting on LP records, in chronological order, the complete recording output of Bing from 'I've Got That Girl' in 1926 onwards. Six years and four months later (I write in February 1991) John has now completed and issued thirteen volumes of the set which brings him up to April 1932. He has provisionally planned up to and including Volume 24 which would take the series well into 1936.

Those members who have supported this unique venture (John does include every known 'take') have enabled it to continue in the face of considerable difficulties. The amount of research John has had to undertake is quite staggering. He has literally scoured the world of Crosbyana to obtain the best possible copies of each recording. He has unearthed some truly wonderful photographs, many of which I have never seen before, so that the whole series comes packaged in some of the finest album sleeves we have ever seen.

The back up and support John has received from collectors all over the world has had a significant bearing on the continued growth of the project. He has also received great and enthusiastic help in the form of 'plugs' from radio personalities like Alan Dell and Hubert Gregg. Above all he received a quite overwhelming and sincere tribute from Benny Green in his first 'That's Entertainment' programme of 1991. This was broadcast on Radio 2 on Sunday 6th January and was quite the most enjoyable Benny Green programme I have heard since his memorable tribute to Maxine Sullivan broadcast in May 1987 shortly after her death.

Now Benny has not always been regarded by Crosby devotees as one of their favourite sons and he is well aware of this. In my opinion he has been much misunderstood and certainly in recent years he has demonstrated quite unequivocably that he is well aware of the place Bing occupies in the field of popular music. Any lingering doubts must have been finally dispelled for anyone lucky enough to catch Benny's programme this time. Not only did he play no less than four of the songs featured on Volume 13, he also praised the whole venture and paid particular tribute to the album sleeve and the wealth of detail about the actual recording sessions. I don't think even Benny had come across an album sleeve which detailed not only the exact recording date but the time of day at which the session took place before.

The whole venture really does depend upon sufficient support from the record buying public. John has the names of about sixty members of the International Crosby Circle on his files. He was surprised to learn that we have several hundred members in our clan. He needs to be guaranteed 1,000 sales of each album to make the whole operation viable. If each member of our Circle purchased just one copy of each album then the continued success of the series is virtually guaranteed.

(Editors comment) Members will be aware that it is not my normal style to comment on individual articles, but I do think that we have an issue here on which a little more needs to be said. John's points are well made and I for one would endorse his every word about the sterling efforts John McNicholas has gone to in producing 13 LPs of the highest quality. The question is why are they not better supported by ICC members. I believe that there are probably three reasons. Firstly, the series now rests almost entirely on the quality of the finished product. As it moves through the years 1932-34, there are few tracks which most members do not already possess. True it offers some rarer takes, but not all our members are collectors in the purest sense of the word. This, added to

the fact that nearly two thirds of our members rely on pensions for their income suggests to me that LPs which offer material already possessed will inevitably fall outside the spending priorities for many of our members. The second issue concerns the continued use of the LP format. Good though the re-mastering is — indeed, could it be better? — the LP reproduction falls far short of CD standards. If the series is to achieve its goal, it must, for me, embrace the CD. The third issue concerns the listenability of a series of this type. I possess all 13 volumes and frequently dip into each. I hardly ever sit down and listen to one all the way through. Why? Because back to back takes of the same song do not make good, casual listening — and many of our members buy their LPs for that reason. This all sounds very negative, I'm sure, although its not intended to be so. I send several copies of each issue to friends in the USA and as long as John produces 'em, I'll buy 'em. But I do think its unfair to berate our members when there are some quite understandable reasons for the lack of support. Or am I wrong?

What is a Whiffenpoof?

We're all familiar with Bing's millionseller "The Whiffenpoof Song" but how many of us know what a whiffenpoof is? Jim Newell helps us find out.

In 1909, the young Cole Porter was a student at Yale University. Early in 1910 he joined the Dramat Glee Club and went on their 1910 tour. A writer for the "Yale News" maintained that whenever two underclassmen discovered a common enthusiasm for anything, they formed a club and gave it an esoteric name to mystify other students. As it transpires, the "whiffenpoofs" were an autonomous group of singers within the above mentioned Glee Club who served as major attractions at athletic events and on Glee Club tours. Remember this was the early part of the century.

In the song, a line goes thus . . . "To the table down at Morey's . . . " Well Morey's was a restaurant that Porter used to go where he would write out the bills in return for dinner and drinks on the house.

This song was one of Rudy Vallee's biggest hits. Ian Whitcomb says in his book "After The Ball' that the song came from the ivied walls of Yale. But did it? The song was certainly adopted by the Whiffenpoof Society of Yale in 1909 although further research suggests that the song was probably composed by a Mr. Guy Scull, a HARVARD student in about 1893/94 using the words freely adapted from Rudyard Kipling's poem "Gentleman Rankers". In Kipling's poem, a "ranker" was a commissioned officer who had come up through the ranks.

The American singer, Robert Merrill recorded "The Whiffenpoof Song" in 1947 and brought it back into prominence, but it was Crosby's recording that became the BIG seller. It reached No. 7 in the USA that year, and became Bing's 16th million selling record. Fred Waring and His Orchestra & Glee Club (shades of 1910) recorded their part of Bing's record in New York. The tape was then flown to San Francisco where Bing dubbed on his vocal. It took him only 20 minutes and as has already been said, sold over a million. Not bad for 20 minutes work!

There is another twist to the story. In the first part of the song, a line goes . . . "To the place where Louis dwells . . . " I wonder! Could this be a reference to Louis Shurr, a theatrical agent for talented personalities who was very well known to both Moss Hart and Cole Porter? Was Morey's the favourite eating place of Shurr's? This may account for the note on my copy of the sheet music which says "Copyright 1936 by Miller Music Corporation, New York. Special lyrics by Moss Hart."

The plot thickens. How about this. . . . "Song credit to Meade Minnegerode and George S. Pomeroy (words) and Todd B. Galloway (music)."

Having heard the song on radio many times and often wondered what it really was all about, a picture of sorts begins to take shape. To those of you who have joined in the Baa Baa Baa's, I hope that these notes will be of interest.

All of the foregoing goes some way towards putting the story together but more research is needed to fill a couple of gaps . . . WATCH THIS SPACE!

Oh, and if you're interested in this type of thing, would you like to hear the story behind "Rosalie" . . . "Love's Old Sweet Song" (the Boozers' Song!!) . . . "You're Just In Love. . . . If so, let me know.

Thanks Jim — and if you are interested, do as Jim says, and let us know.

DYNASTY GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

Aaron Spelling, producer of the Dynasty series, has been making the news over the last year or so because of the vast mansion he is building in Hollywood. It seems that six years ago, Mr. Spelling paid £6 million for Bing's former home in one of the best streets in Holmby Hills. The elegant, rather formal neo-colonial property was promptly demolished and since then, an army of builders, decoraters and landscape gardeners have been working to build a new house. "House" would appear to be an understatement as the edifice, built in the shape of a W, occupies 57,000 sq. ft and has 123 rooms. It is proof against bomb attack, has more Greek columns than the Parthenon and there is a 50 seat cinema in addition to a full size ice rink. The property has cost more than £30 million so far and it is rumoured that the Sultan of Brunei has expressed an interest in buying it. The property has been called "the tackiest place in Hollywood" and that's saying something. A neighbour has described it as belonging to the "look at me, I'm rich" school of architecture.

What would Bing have said? "I've got to pass your house" or "But not for me"? Perhaps "These foolish things"?

The Shape Of Things To Come?

No, not H.G. Wells, but signs of life on the Crosby re-issues front. Leslie Gaylor wrote with a postscript to his letter to say that he was still hopeful that "Songs Of Stage And Screen" would eventually come off and that Alan Dell had offered his support for the project. Then Stan White provided us with a copy of a letter from Andy McKaie, an MCA Vice-President. In his letter to Stan, Andy had this to say about future Bing projects.

"As far as Crosby goes, yes, the market seems to be shrinking — at least as far as the reissues of "Bing's Hollywood" that we are doing. So we are looking at alternative ways to approach his immense and important Decca catalog. The first will be "Bing And His Jazz Friends", a collection due about . . . August. We were also thinking about a series of his "Top Ten" duets, and so on, leading inevitably to a boxed set.

What I'm saying, I guess, is that we've not forgotten Bing here . . . rather, we are trying to find the proper way to market his music in the last decade of the 20th Century".

Good news and bad it would seem — at least as far as more Bing's Hollywood are concerned. But certainly Andy has a point. Bing's Hollywood was an early 60s concept. Times change and so must the product, or at least its packaging.

An alternative, enterprising approach might be found in some of the smaller independent labels. A few weeks ago, Colin Miles of "See For Miles" rang me. Colin's label hitherto has specialised in 1960s reissues, but in a thoughtful way, with excellent packaging and sleeve notes. For example, See For Miles have issued a series of "EP Collection" albums, drawing on material that often saw only a brief appearance on the now obsolete "Extended Play". Colin rang me initially to ask if I would compile a "Michael Holliday EP Collection", which I was happy to do — and which incidentally, should be in the shops soon. 28 tracks on the CD and it will be a gem (pardon the plug). However, in chatting to Colin, the idea of a "Bing Crosby EP Collection" came up and again Colin asked me to do the compilation and the sleeve notes. The project is still awaiting clearance from MCA, but a number of members have heard about it and asked for track details. These are printed below — but remember, its not definite yet.

Road To Morocco
That's A Plenty
Moments To Remember
The Loneliness Of Evening
Sing Soft, Sing Sweet, Sing Gentle
Me And The Moon
Got The Moon In My Pocket
Young At Heart
Mademoiselle de Paris
Morgen
Domenica
Look To Your Heart
The Longest Walk
It Had To Be You
Something In Common
The Possibility's There
The Sweetheart Waltz
The Moon Was Yellow
Pale Moon
Chicago Style
Oh Baby Mine I Get So Lonely
La Mer
Under Paris Skies
White Christmas (1955)
Suddenly There's A Valley
Sailing Down The Chesapeake Bay.

Anyone wanting to offer moral support can write to Colin at See For Miles Records, PO Box 328, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2NE.

Ken Crossland

DON CLARKE AND HIS LOS ANGELES BILTMORE HOTEL ORCHESTRA

As most Bing Crosby collectors know, Bing's very first recording was "I've Got The Girl" a duet with Al Rinker, recorded in Los Angeles on 18th October, 1926, in an abandoned warehouse (to quote Bing) and at the same session Bing and Al Rinker recorded "Don't Somebody Need Somebody" which regretfully was never issued and almost certainly will never be unearthed.

"I've Got The Girl" (master W142785-3) was issued on Columbia 824-D and also on English Columbia 4310 under the pseudonym of The Charleston Serenaders.

However it is not generally known that the band-leader, Don Clark, was a member of the Paul Whiteman Band from about mid 1921 to mid 1925 and as such came over to England with the orchestra in 1923 to play in the revue "Brighter London" at the Hippodrome (now The Talk Of The Town). He played saxophones, alto and soprano, but it was on baritone that he was mainly featured. There are many records made by Paul Whiteman in those years which have complete choruses by Don Clark on baritone sax. They were almost always straight versions (he was not a jazz-man) but to my cloth ears they are beautifully smooth, rich toned and expressive as any sax solos one could hear. But the point is that when "I've Got The Girl" was recorded, the band leader was a former member of the Whiteman organisation and the two, virtually unknown singers, were future members. Two months later, Bing and Al Rinker recorded "Wistful And Blue" and "Pretty Lips" their first duets with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra. The rest is historic.

Ralph Harding

Derek Parkes' Crosby Collectors Club

1991 GREETINGS TO ALL!
And that figure seems to relate to the number of people who sent me a Christmas card. My sincere thanks to you all.

NEW RELEASES
A glance through the following pages will reveal an unbelieveable number of worldwide releases. Axis of Australia have produced some excellent CD issues of MCA/Decca material but the real treasures are a number of releases of radio and film material. Of especial note are those filled to capacity with 75 or more minutes on VJC (USA — two issues) and JSP (UK — two issues). Magic (UK) has recently issued a similar CD, but only 56 minutes (Bing's Buddies). A little more care could have gone into its production as the listed track numbers do not coincide with the index points on the disc and some playing speeds sound wrong. Of lesser interest is a multitude of Christmas and other discs and boxed set where Bing does his featured 'guest spot'. The hunt has continued for the more obscure items. These often prove to be disappointing. Help is requested with Japanese releases and getting information of European issues is also difficult. There has been no further word of 'Le Bing'. Can anyone help with this? LPs have continued to decline in numbers but there's one treasure to be found in the following pages.

DIFFICULTIES
The greatest difficulty relates to time. Essentially, your orders will be dealt with with the minimum of delay but correspondence may be delayed. You can help greatly by placing your orders as soon as possible after you receive "BING". This enables your orders to be dealt with in bulk — which is less time consuming and also helps with the price. Order on a separate sheet of paper. Where possible replies to your letters will be given in appended notes written on your own letters which will be returned to you. Please keep your letter brief leaving some space for the reply.

Money is always a problem — there is never enough. A glance through the following pages will reveal an exceptional number of releases. Many of these were obtained simply to give you accurate information. The three CDs from Austria cost £12 each but with import duty, C.O.D. and other Post Office charges they cost £58. To this can be added the cost of collecting them from Salisbury — another £2. They could have been exciting issues of material not available elsewhere on CD but they added nothing new! Of course, the majority of CDs cost much less but there is a question of doubt as to whether it will be financially possible to continue to give you news of everything known to be issued. For the same reason it just is not possible to cover cassettes and LPs as thoroughly as some of you would like. Time, of course, is the other factor. CDs are now the leading format and they will indicate what other formats could be made available. Cassette and LP information is given when known but otherwise you must make your own enquiries.

Recently an order came to light that had been completely overlooked. This has caused some misgivings. If your order has been delayed for an excessive amount of time (say four mounths) please write for an appraisal of the situation.

NEWS BULLETIN
Only one has been sent out since the December "BING". If you have requested this service but didn't get it, please write. It fills the gap between "BING" issues advising readers of especially good releases. This service has no frills. It simply informs. Unfortunately the cost must now be 50p per Bulletin for new subscribers. Please send 4 self addressed envelopes + £2 for 4 issues, write first from outside the U.K.

BING GOES EAST.
In 1989 Sony bought out Columbia Pictures which almost certainly included the record side of the business. Now an even bigger takeover by Matsushita has transferred MCA to Japanese control. What now does the future hold for Bing record releases?

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES OF BING
The 'Crosby Collectors Club' is normally run on a non-profit basis but the quantity of CDs bought of late far exceeds the money which the writer normally allows for his hobby. Perhaps, on this occasion, you will allow a little profiteering to help with future purchases. It has to be confessed that this picture project was first conceived as a non-profit service for Crosby collectors. The following postcard size (6 in x 4 in) pictures are available at 50p each plus one payment of 5p to cover post and packing however many pictures are purchased. This approximates to a donation of 20p for each picture purchased. Thus:

1 picture: £1 2 for £1.50 3 for £2.00 plus 50p for each additional print.

1. Mann's Chinese Theater — The location of the next two prints. (Hollywood)
2. 1944 Academy Awards poster — Bing and Ingrid Bergman
3. Bing's Foot and palm prints — 8 Apr 1936 (written US style 4-8-36)

4. Pavement star — for records)
5. Pavement sart — for films) These are tributes set in the sidewalk in Hollywood — all Bing's
6. Pavement star — for radio)
7. Bing's grave + squirrel
8. Bing's grave + flowers — sent by UK Bing admirers, 1990
9. Dixie Lee's grave — Bing's first wife (Wilma W. Crosby)
10. Harry Lowe Crosby's grave — Bing's father
11. Catherine H. Crosby's grave — Bing's mother
12. Lindsay H. Crosby's grave — Bing's son
13. Ambassador Auditorium (outside) — where Bing fell off the stage
14. Pebble Beach Golf Course — view of part of the course
15. Pebble Beach — Tribute to Bing — (The Bing Crosby Pro-Am Golf Tournament)
16. Close up of plaque — Tribute to Bing
17. Los Angeles Arboretum — location for hut by the river (Road to Singapore)

Special Offer: All 17 prints for £8. All the prints are excellent photographs.

BING CROSBY — A COMPREHENSIVE DISCOGRAPHY, RADIO PROGRAM LIST AND FILMOGRAPHY

by Timothy A. Morgereth

An apology is due for having omitted the author's name when this book was announced in the December 'BING'. In spite of requesting a quick reply orders were so slow in coming in that it was believed that there would be insufficient to obtain any discount as offered by the publishers. Finally, with the number still two short for the minimum discount an order has been placed. Readers should note that there will be just two spare copies — after that it is doubtful whether discount will be obtainable on further copies. It has just been noticed that a misprint in 'BING' listed the price as £13 to £10. The second figure should have read £15 and it is this figure that will apply plus the postage involved and a small contribution towards incidental expenses. It's interesting to note that when this book was originally released at its full price, with the then exchange rate it costs £35. A special purchase through the Crosby Collectors Club brought the price down to about £25.

CHESTERFIELD CASSETTES

The response to the release of the last set of Chesterfield tapes has been a little disappointing. Each cassette gives one hour of entertainment — two Bing Crosby shows in remarkably good sound. Any project such as this requires an input of money which is recoverable only by your support. Without sufficient support, not only will the project terminate through lack of cash but the enthusiasm to help fellow collectors tends to wane. At this writing the first 100 shows are available on 50 cassettes at £3.50 each cassette or £30 for 10 cassettes.

CONDITION CODE

With the copy date (when all articles should be with the editor) only one day away, it has become an impossible task to listen to all the records listed to assess the quality of each disc. Although there is some variation in the sound of those listed, most can be fully corrected by means of the tone controls. Generally speaking no excessive reverberation has been noticed and simulated stero (US Reader's Digest) seems to be reasonably successful.

DISC PRICES. An attempt will be made to list the cost of each disc — or to approximate it — as far as time allows.

ORDERS

Payment with order: Send the amount shown ('DCP') price or if no 'DCP' price send £7 per item ordered. Pay for sets according to the number of discs in the set: £14 for 2 £21 for 3 £28 for 4. Prices are a guide only and any order may be subjected to a further charge or a partial refund. Please note that a charge of £1 is normally made on each item to UK customers to cover post and packing and other expenses. This charge is not recoverable if the order is cancelled but it will be returned if any order cannot be supplied.

American Discs: Any type of recording can be sent anywhere in the world for the retail cost plus postage. Payment can be in sterling, US or Australian dollars., There is no bank charge but a small charge may be made for out of pocket expenses (eg. overseas mail)

Please us a separate piece of paper for your order. A letter is not necessary but please include the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your address
3. Record type (LP, CD or cassette)
4. Record label and number
5. Name of album
6. Number of copies
7. Cash enclosed

NB. Any order may need a cash adjustment.

Send your order to:
D. PARKES,
66 FIRS ROAD,
FIRSDOWN,
SALISBURY, WILTS SP5 1SW.
ENGLAND
Tel: Winterslow 0980 862688

NEW RELEASES, REISSUES OR PREVIOUS OMISSIONS

N.B. Many of the disc prices have been estimated (Est) as time does not permit a thorough search of back mail — Sorry!

LP **JONZO JZ-13 THE CHRONOLOGICAL BING CROSBY Vol 13 - 1932** UK £7.50

Starlight (A + C)
How Long Will It Last
Love, You Funny Thing
My Woman
Shine w. The Mills Brothers
Face The Music Medley Pt 1 (B + C)
Shadows On The Window (A + B)
Paradise (A + B)
You're Still In My Heart
Lawd, You Made The Night Too Long
plus The Boswell Sisters (A + B)

Playing Time: 55 minutes
Tracks: 15

This, as with all the previous Jonzo records, is a superior production — the pinnacle of privately produced records and an example to the big record companies as to the sound quality that can be extracted from recordings nearly sixty years old. A touch more bass and the sound to these old ears is near perfect. Although avidly sought after by Crosby collectors the series is not a commercial success. A strict adherance to the 'CHRONOLOGICAL' in the name of the series produces song duplication — a repetition, tolerable, or even interesting to the Bing boys but definitely off-putting to Mr. Public. The records would be far more interesting without the repeats but the alternative takes need not be lost. There is room in the current sleeves to hold limited edition LPs. These, of course, would be free of the rather high cost of sleeve production. The inner sleeve need carry details only of the titles and takes — all other information would be on the sleeve of the main issue. Unfortunately a head-in-the-sand attitude is resulting in a considerable slowing in the rate of release of these records due to lack of finance to subsidize the series. The question must be . . . Is there enough support amongst collectors to save the series? It must be stressed that the following suggestions are those of the writer alone. It is felt that this series is too good to lose and lose it we shall — if only through finding it harder and harder to stay alive long enough. More money can lead to a faster production so:

1) Make a donation to Jonzo Records (run by ONE fellow collector). How about sending the price of a single LP. If everyone did this there would be enough money in hand for the next release which would appear much more quickly
2) Buy from Jonzo Records direct. Postage will be extra but Jonzo Records will get the benefit of the profit that would otherwise go to the retailer
3) Buy two copies — back copies too if you can afford to do so. The purchase of a second copy is almost as good as a donation since a record in a stock room contributes nothing to the production of the next volume.

Another idea would be to make this series a subscription service — each disc paid for in advance with the production of the appropriate number of discs. That, of course, must be the decision of Jonzo Records.

The address of Jonzo Records is on the sleeve of each issue. Please do what you can to help. Don't leave it entirely up to **one man**!

LP **LIMITED EDITION CLUB JGB 1011 MUSIC HALL** UK £5

Everything's In Rhythm With My Heart
You
If I Should Lose Y ou
Whare Are You
I'm Building Up To An Awful Let Down
All My Life
Say The Word And It's Yours
Long Ago And Far Away
Moon Over Miami
Moon Rise On The Lowlands
Desire
Roll Along Prairie Moon
Lost
West Wind
Take My Heart
One Night In Monte Carlo

Playing Time: 30 minutes
Tracks: 16

1936 — JIMMY DORSEY KRAFT MUSIC HALL. This is almost the unbelieveable! It is a very desirable LP as these recordings are available on record for the very first time — but only if you are a member of the Limited Edition Club. Unfortunately the sound lacks treble (presumably an attempt to reduce some of the background noise) but this is very rare Bing material. The Paul Taylor Choristers are featured very pleasantly on many of the tracks.

CD **AXIS CDAX 701580 WRAP YOUR TROUBLES IN DREAMS** Australia £6.50 (£9 DCP)

Pennies From Heaven
There's A Gold Mine In The Sky
East Side Of Heaven
Stardust
Down By The Old Mill Stream
In My Merry Oldsmobile
Wrap Your Troubles In Dreams
Somebody Loves Me
Marcheta
Please
A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square
Shoe Shine Boy
Lullaby
And The Angels Sing

Playing Time: 47 minutes
Tracks: 16

An appealing selection made from the 1935-40 period. Unfortunately all discs played have a fault in the 'Oldsmobile' track — a low level repetitive thump towards the end of the track. Unaccountably, it cannot be heard on some CD players.

CD **AXIS CDAX 701594 BING SWINGS IT** Australia £6.50 (£9 DCP)

Basin Street Blues[1]
Bob White[1]
Alexander's Ragtime Band[1]
Start The Day Right[1]
Tea For Two[1]
Yes Indeed[1]
Between 18th And 19th On Chestnut St.[1]
An Apple For The Teacher[1]
The Dixieland Band
Nobody's Sweetheart
Jamboree Jones
When My Dreamboat Comes Home
Walking The Floor With You
I Want My Mama
After You've Gone
That's A Plenty[1]
Blue
Be Honest With me
Ida, Sweet As Apple Cider
Goodbye, My Lover, Goodbye

Playing Time: 53 minutes — Tracks: 20

Bing swings it with Connee Boswell on those tracks labelled [1] and what a tuneful pair they make. Here the 1955 ten inch LP 'Bing And Connee' is combined with the twelve inch version of 'Bing And The Dixieland Bands'. For those of you who like the bouncy numbers — this is a must.

CD **VINTAGE JAZZ CLASSICS VJC-1012-2** USA Est. £8
THE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK SESSIONS FOR IRVING BERLIN'S HOLIDAY INN AND BLUE SKIES

I'll Capture Your Heart[1]
You're Easy To Dance With
White Christmas[1]
Medley: Happy Holiday[1]
Let's Start The New Year Right
You're Easy To Dance With[1]
Be Careful It's My Heart[1]
I Can't Tell A Lie
Easter Parade[1]
Song Of Freedom[1]
Medley: You Keep Coming Back Like A Song
Blue Skies
I've God My Captain Working For Me Now'
I'm Putting All My Eggs In One Basket[1]
Cheek To Cheek[1]
All By Myself
Puttin' On The Ritz
Serenade To An Old Fashioned Girl
I'll See You In C-U-B-A[1]
A Couple Of Song And Dance Men
You Keep Coming Back Like A Song[1]
What'll I Do?[1]
All Alone[1]
Remember[1]
Blue Skies[1]
The Little Things In Life[1]
Not For All The Rice In China[1]
Russian Lullaby[1]
Everybody Step[1]
Say It Isn't So[1]
How Deep Is The Ocean[1]
Getting Nowhere[1]
Heat Wave
Any Bonds Today[1]
This Is The Army Mr Jones[1]
White Christmas[1]
God Bless America[1]
Medley: You Keep Coming Back Like A Song[1]
Blue Skies[1]

Playing Time: 76 minutes — Tracks: 37

These are recordings that were made for use in the soundtracks of the two films although some have been adapted to advertise those films on radio. Bing is featured on most tracks (labelled[1]) although in some of the medleys (some not indicated as such) his contribution is very brief. Many other artists are featured as well in the two films. With maximum playing time this is an excellent CD although the odd flaw is to be found.

CD **VINTAGE JAZZ CLASSICS VJC-1017 THE CHRISTMAS SONGS** USA Est. £8.

1) The complete KRAFT MUSIC HALL — 21 December 1944

Where The Blue Of The Night	Theme — sung by Bing
Adestes Fideles	Bing with US Navy Waves Chorus
Jingle Bells	Bing with The Charioteers
I Dream Of You	Eugenie Baird
I'm Making Believe	Bing
A Slip Of The Lip	The Charioteers
What A Difference A Day Makes	Bing
Beautiful Saviour	Kraft Choral Club
God Is Ever Beside Me	Kraft Choral Club
Silent Night, Holy Night	Bing with Chorus
Broadcast Closing Announcement And Prayer — End Theme	

2) Selection from various broadcasts, 1942-1946

Medley: Happy Holiday	Bing	KMH 30 Dec 1943
Come To Holiday Inn	Bing with The Mucic Maids	
Let's Start The New Year Right	Bing with Chorus	KMH 30 Dec 1943
God Rest You Merry Gentlemen	Bing	KMH 2 Jan 1949

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow	Bing	Philco 14 Feb 1946
I'll Be Home For Christmas	Bing	KMH 7 Dec 1944

3) Crosby excerpts from THE PHILCO RADIO HALL OF FAME starring Paul Whiteman and broadcast 24 December, 1944

Adestes Fidelas	Bing
Patter	Bing and Orsen Welles
White Christmas	Bing with The King's Men (and women!)

4) Musical excerpts from the PHILCO RADIO TIME Christmas broadcast 25 Dec 1946

Theme	Bing
Adestes Fideles	Bing and Chorus
The Christmas Song	Bing
Jingle Bells	Bing with The Charitoeers and the Vocal Group
White Christmas	Bing
Silent Night	Bing with the Trotter Group

5) Excerpts from 'A Christmas Sing With Bing' broadcast on 24 Dec. 1955
(A more complete version of this programme has been released previously on an assortment of LPs.)
Rcording date: 9th December 1955.

Joy To The World	All tracks feature Bing with the Norman
The First Noel	Luboff Choir and Orchestra directed by
Good King Wenceslas	Paul Weston
Away In A Manger	
Deck The Halls With Boughs Of Holly	
Oh, Little Town Of Bethlehem	

Playing Time: 75 minutes Tracks: 33

The age and source of this material does mean that there are one or two minor 'blips' present but nevertheless the quality of this CD is remarkable. It is a real collector's item that gives you different versions of the well loved Christmas music. It's such a pity that section 5 was included when so much other Christmas material is freely available. The complete 1955 show — or at least *all* of the Bing tracks would have gone a long way to filling a separate disc leaving room on this CD for previously unissued material. But is easy to criticise — this is an excellent disc.

The next three items can be dealt with collectively. They are all available in the three formats. It's worth noting, as in this case, that where the CD issue number terminates in '-2', the corresponding LP ends in '-1' and the cassette in '-4'. Thus 105014-1, 105014-2 and 105014-4 are the numbers corresponding to the LP, CD and cassette respectively. Hence, if only the CD is listed, its number can be modified for your supplier to check the availability of other formats.

The following three CDs were obtained from Austria but they are pressed in Switzerland where they may have been issued originally. The CD numbers are used here.

CD **HIGH GRADE** **105014-2** **TRUE LOVE** £12 each in Austria
105015-2 **SWINGING BING CROSBY - Vol 1**
105016-2 **SWINGING BING CROSBY - Vol 2**

The contents of these three issues are identical to those in Ken Barnes' boxed set — the 'Tenth Anniversary Collection' except that the tunes are arranged in a completely different running order. The sound is not quite as sweet as the original issue — something quite unexpected with digital master tapes. 'True Love' depicts Bing wearing a naval type hat whereas the other two discs show different pictures of Bing in dress suit — probably taken at the London Palladium.

JSP JOY It's always exciting to hear of a new Bing Crosby venture. . . and this is real value for money as the first two JSP Bing releases on CD are filled to capacity with more than 76 minutes on each. What is perhaps more exciting is that much of the material has not been released before except on somewhat obscure LP labels. JSP have discontinued LPs but the CD collector must be thrilled to be able to buy so much that is new to CD. This must surely be the excuse others need to buy a CD player as the good news is that this series of non-commercial material will continue provided there is enough support. Let there be no more complaints about the shortage of Bing releases or that it is just the same old material. All it needs is your support for the series to continue. Buy now — even if you intend to obtain a CD player later on. These are full price CDs but each CD plays almost as long as two LPs. The good news is that YOU don't need to pay the full price of £11.99. The 'Crosby Collectors Club' has made special arrangements whereby you can have both discs for £16. However, at this writing it is not clear as to whether VAT will be additional — an extra £2. The price includes postage and packing. Please support this project — send £16 now. You will be billed for the extra £2 should this become necessary. The CDs are planned for release in April/May but please order without delay as discount depends on quantity and it may not be possible to supply discs at the same favourable terms at a later date. But what are you buying? . . . Read on.

CD **JSP CD701 BING CROSBY AND JIMMY DURANTE START OFF EACH DAY WITH A SONG** UK

Start Off Each Day With A Song JD
I Surrender Dear BC/JD
I'm Crosby The Well Dressed Man BC
Blue Skies BC/JD
Start Off Each Day With A Song JD
I'm The Guy Who Found The Lost Chord JD
The Song's Gotta Come From The Heart JD
Start Off Each Day With A Song JD
Where The Blue Of The Night BC/JD
Crosby And Durante's Campaign Song
Parlez-Moi D'Amour JD
Dark Eyes BC/JD
Mr Gallagher And Mr Shean BC/JD/DH
Whatever Happened To Vaudeville BC/JD/DH
While Strolling Through the Park BC/JD/DH
The Autolite Song DH
Rexall Drugs Song JD
Chidaber-Ch-Ch (Yah-Yah-Yah) BC/JD/DH
Start Of Each Day With A Song JD
It's Not His Mind, It's His Music BC/JD/GN
Where The Blue Of The Night BC/JD
A Gal In Calico BC
And Then It's Heaven BC
Uncle Remus Said BC
How Are Things In Glocca Morra BC
Feudin' And Fightin' BC
I'll Dance At Your Wedding BC
As Long As I'm Dreaming BC

BC: Bing Crosby JD: Jimmy Durante DH: Dick Haymes GN: Gertrude Niesen

Playing Time: 76 minutes Tracks: 16

The CD is not yet available and so the above listing must be considered only as a guide. The songs are not listed in their correct playing order. Obviously with Jimmy Durante featured anything can happen — even the number of songs doesn't tally with the number of tracks and several humorous sketches are included. Others on this CD include Peggy Lee, Mark Hollinger and that wonderful vocal group, The Charioteers.

CD **JSP CD702 BING CROSBY AND JUDY GARLAND — ALL CLOUDS'LL ROLL AWAY** UK

Wait Till The Sun Shines Nellie BC/JG
Liza JG
Old Buttermilk Sky BC
Gotta Get Me Somebody To Love BC
Connecticut BC/JG
Huggin' and Chalkin' BC
I've Got You Under My Skin JG
Tearbucket Jim BC/JG
And So To Bed BC
Over The Rainbow JG
Love Somebody BC
Rambling Rose BC
For Me And My Gal BC/JG
Who BC/JG
Embraceable You BC/JG
Confess BC/JG
The Donovans BC
Katrina BC
I Don't Care JG
Ma, He's Makin' Eyes At Me BC/JG
Maybe It's Because BC/JG
Sam's Song BC/JG
Get Happy JG
I Cross My Fingers BC
Mona Lisa BC
Goodnight Irene BC/JG/Bob Hope
All My Love BC
Tzena, Tzena, Tzena BC/JG
Friendly Star JG
High On The List BC
Pretty Baby BC

BC: Bing Crosby JG: Judy Garland

Playing Time: 76 minutes Tracks: 31

Although the disc is not yet to hand there is no doubt about the sound of this and the previous CD. They are both excellent. All the material comes from 'The Bing Crosby Show' from the late forties to the early fifties. Each CD has been compiled from a number of different shows.

GUEST APPEARANCES Essentially issues in which Bing is not the main artist.

CD **PRO-ARTE CDX 010 AMERICAN LEGENDS SAMPLER** USA Est £9

Pennies From Heaven (DLA580) with Frances Langford and Louis Armstrong

Playing Time: 63 minutes Tracks: 21

This is a low priced sampler disc in which the Bing track represents the CD of the same name (CDD432). Tracks are also taken from CDs by: Astaire, Gershwin, Jolson, Whiteman, Chevalier, Armstrong, Betty Boop, Eddie Cantor, Fanny Brice, Mills Brothers and Ellington — all artists which are vailable on this excellent American Legends series.

CD **PRO-ARTE CDD 508 THE DORSEY BROTHERS — I'M GETTING SENTIMENTAL OVER YOU** USA Est £9

I've Got The World On A String (A) I Wished On The Moon

Playing Time: 64 minutes Tracks: 19

Again very representative of the wonderful sound associated with this CD series. An excellent orchestra featuring talented vocalists: Boswell Sisters, Mildred Bailey, Bob and Bing Crosby. Even Benny Goodman and Glen Miller add their talents to the vocal refrains. Surface noise on some tracks.

CD **SPA MAYBELLENE CD 5513 25 UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES - Part IV** EEC £4
True Love with Grace Kelly

Playing Time: 67 minutes Tracks: 25

Another CD found in Salisbury market. The other 3 discs in this set contain no Bing tracks. This disc features the popular vocal music of the 50s. Great value.

CD **CURB D2-77400 ANDREWS SISTERS GREATEST HITS** USA Est £5
Don't Fence Me In Ac-cent-tchu-ate The Positive

Playing Time: 32 minutes Tracks: 11

So many of the records by The Andrews Sisters acquire a harsh vibrating sound due to the limitations of the recording/reproducing system in use. Here the sound is very sweet and yet it retains the excitement and vigour associated with the three girls . . : and Bing of course.

CD **DEJAVU DVRECD 55 HAPPY CHRISTMAS** Italy £7
White Christmas
Adeste Fideles
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Silver Bells w. Trudy Erwin
Medley: Deck The Halls With Boughs Of Holly
Away In A Manger
Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem
The First Noel

Playing Time: 46 minutes Tracks: 19

Although no direct comparison has been made with the commercial releases it is fairly certain that much, if not all, of this material has been taken from radio or other non-commercial source. Much of it has been previously released on the various Dejavu LP records (DVLP 2078 for the Bing tracks). The CD has a typical 'Dejavu' sound but much can be done with the tone controls (equiliser).

CD **DUCHESSE CD352013 LOUISE ARMSTRONG — WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD** EEC £?
Now You Have Jazz

Playing Time: 46 minutes Tracks: 16

The error in the title is on both the disc and the accompanying literature. This must appeal more to Louis Armstrong collectors especially as it contains less well known titles: Running Bear; Miller's Cave; Almost Persuaded; Crystal Chandeliers; Black Cloud; Crazy Arms; Ole Miss; Why Did Mrs Murphy Leave Town? — All from 50s and 60s.

CHRISTMAS RELEASES The American market seems to have been flooded with Christmas CDs which carry one or two Bing tracks. Some were listed in the last 'Bing' and more are briefly mentioned here using a different format. The condition code is followed by the playing time, number of tracks, Bing's songs and the release details. All are USA releases unless given otherwise.

All are CDs — mainly budget priced — Est £4.

35m 14	The White World Of Winter	CBS A15756 CHRISTMAS STAR TIME
33m 12	White Christmas	MCA MCAD25988 TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CLASSICS
	Jingle Bells w. A. Sisters	
44m 15	O Holy Night	CAP-SM CDL9577 JOY TO THE WORLD
43m 15	I Wish You A Merry Christmas	CAP-SM CDL9578 WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
15	Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow	CAP CDL57208 CHRISTMAS BY THE FIRESIDE
49m 15	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/ It Came Upon A Midnight Clear	CAP-SM CDL57210 HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!
	What Child Is This/The Holly And The Ivy	NB: CAP-SM is the Capital Special Markets Label
	Pat-A-Pan/While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night	
55m 21	Do You Hear What I Hear?	CAP CDP 7 94701 2 CHRISTMAS KISSES

Those of you who have 'Christmas Classics' on CAP CDP 7 91009 2 should note that the missing medley 'Pat-A-Pan/While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night' is available on the budget label shown above. Alternatively the Australian release, AXIS CDAX 260300 'I Wish You A Merry Christmas' is complete.

Worthy of note is that 'Do You Hear What I Hear' is given as take 5. Take 1 was the original release.

In the last issue of 'BING' mention was made of a set of four CDs 'All Time Christmas Favorites' for which details of Vols 2 and 4 were given. Vol 3 contains no Bing tracks but Vol 1 does rather better:

Silent Night
Jingle Bells w. Andrews Sisters
Faith Of Our Fathers
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
White Christmas

Playing Time: 37 minutes Vol 3: 34m Tracks: 12 (Vol. 3: 12)

All four CDs can be obtained separately on MCA MCAD22000/MCAD22003. Please see previous 'BING' for further details.

In 1987 Time-Life Music released two double albums of Christmas music. They may still be available on both LP and cassette.

CD **TIME-LIFE TCD 107/108 THE TIME-LIFE TREASURY OF CHRISTMAS** USA Est £12 each vol.

Volume 1	Disc TCD 107A	White Christmas	70m 22
	Disc TCD 107B	Do You Hear What I Hear?	64m 23
Volume 2	Disc TCD 108A	Jingle Bells w. Andrews Sisters	69m 24
	Disc TCD 108B	I'll Be Home For Christmas	69m 24

CD **READER'S DIGEST RD7 143 CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE YEARS** USA Est £19

Disc 1: VCD3-5541

Silent Night	A Family Christmas (A Crosby Christmas)
Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer	A Marshmallow World

Disc 2: VCD3-5542

Do You Hear What I hear?	Adeste Fideles

Disc 3: VCD3-5543

I'll Be Home For Christmas

Playing Time: 177 minutes	Tracks: 60

This three CD boxed set (plus 48 paged booklet) and the previous Time-Life sets are all beautifully recorded. Full details of these, or any other, may be had from DCP.

'Christmas Through The Years' appears to be a CD reissue of a set first released by Reader' Digest in 1984. LPs and cassettes may still be available. Coming more up to date, the following 1990 Reader's Digest (USA) set is definitely available in all three formats. CD details follow.

CD **READER'S DIGEST RB7-038 MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS** USA Est £25

Disc 1: WCD4-5811

Sam's Song	Dear Hearts And Gentle People
In The Cool, Cool, Cool Of The Evening	Harbor Lights
All My Love	Moonlight Bay
Playing Time: 60m (Set 240m approx)	Tracks: 24 (Set 84)

This four CD set was supplied with a 48 page booklet which relates to the cassette issue! As with the UK release 'The Bing Crosby Years' contents are arranged somewhat differently in the various formats. This is yet another excellent release which features six songs from each of the following: Dean Martin, Patti Page, Jo Stafford, Perry Como, Mills Brothers, Les Paul and Mary Ford, Ames Brothers, Teresa Brewer, Eddie Fisher, Four Aces, Pat Boone, Connie Francis and Bing of course. Available on 3 cassettes, 7 records or 4 CDs.

CD **READER'S DIGEST RB7-099 ALL TIME SENTIMENTAL FAVORITES** USA Est £25

Disc 1:	WCD4-5931	Anniversary Song	
Disc 3:	WCD4-5933	It Had To Be You	Moments To Remember
Playing Time: Disc 60m Set 240m approx.			Tracks: Disc 24 Set 83

This set is available on 4 CDs, 3 cassettes or 7 LPs

Yet another excellent Reader's Digest compilation featuring far too many artists to list but grouped under various titles: Gettin' Sentimental At The Movies; Gettin' Sentimental On Broadway; Those Sentimental Groups; Gettin' Sentimental With The Great Bands; Those Sentimental Guys; Those Sentimental Gals; Those Sentimental Orchestras; Those Sentimental Places. It should be noted that Reader's Digest normally enhance mono recordings to simulate stereo. An excellent production.

MORE GUEST APPEARANCES ON CD Est £8 each

73m 24	Mississippi Mud w. Tram. From Monday On (6) You Took Advantage Of Me	BUDA 82466-2 BIX BEIDERBECKE — FELIX THE CAT France (This CD is a gold colour — not silver)
70m 23	Mississippi Mud w. Tram.	COL CK46175 BIX BEIDERBECKE Vol 2 (CEDAR) AT THE JAZ BAND BALL USA
49m 18	Changes (2) (Processed by R. Parker)	ABC 838215-2 THE ROARING TWENTIES £11 Australia (also on LP and cassette)

The last entry is also available in UK on BBC REB 704 (LP), CD 704 (CD) £12 and ZCF 704 (cassette)

50m 16	You're Getting To Be A Habit With Me You're Beautiful Tonight, My Dear Young And Healthy (A)	COL CK44407 GUY LOMBARDO — 16 MOST REQUESTED SONGS (Omitted from the August listing)
70m 24	Dear Hearts And Gentle People	TIME LIFE HPD-02 YOUR HIT PARADE 1950
70m 24	In The Cool, Cool, Cool Of The Evening	TIME LIFE HPD-01 YOUR HIT PARADE 1951

The two Time Life discs can be bought individually or the full st of 'YOUR HIT PARADE' can be purchased on a

subscription basis. The total number of discs in this series is not known. The 1950 insert contains an interesting picture of Bing standing next to three transcription turntables.

MILLS BROTHERS — CHRONOLOGICAL VOLUME FIVE.
The first two volumes of this series contain all the commercially released tracks which also feature Bing — including all the known alternative issues. With over twenty tracks per disc and an excellent sound this series has been very popular and many Bing collectors chose to continue with the series. Volume five is about to be released and it will be available through the Crosby Collectors Club at £8 instead of the normal retail price of £11.99. All tracks to date cover 1931 to the late thirties. All CDs are still available. A large proportion of the originals (many vinyl 78s) were supplied by 'yours truly' and as a result the extra special price concession will not only benefit you but it will also help with future Bing CD purchases for the details that go into 'BING'. Your support will be appreciated.

No attempt has been made to count the number of discs listed this time round. Almost certainly it is the most in any one issue to date. Much is of limited interest but there are some real gems. If anything has been missed — please write.

There has been some talk of the need for a CD discography. With around 200 releases, nearly half of which are predominantly Bing, there is much confusion — especially where there is an interest in alternative takes and different versions. Without going into any great detail at this writing, it would be interesting to know how many would support such an undertaking. Formative ideas include a completely novel type of discography that would be extremely easy to use and suitable to use as an index file for your own collection. **IF** produced as a loose-leaf book it would be easy to personalise it by segreating the details of the discs you own. A loose-leaf book would allow you to file in the order of your choise but whether or not this form of binding is used the design would allow additional volumes to be added without the need for a complete reprint. It is obviously a lot of work that is not feasible unless there is a big support for the idea. Over to you . . . if you are interested you must write to say so.

Finally, if you have enjoyed reading 'BING' enjoy still more by listening to Bing. Try playing a record that has not been played for many months (years). You could find it sounds like a newly discovered recording.

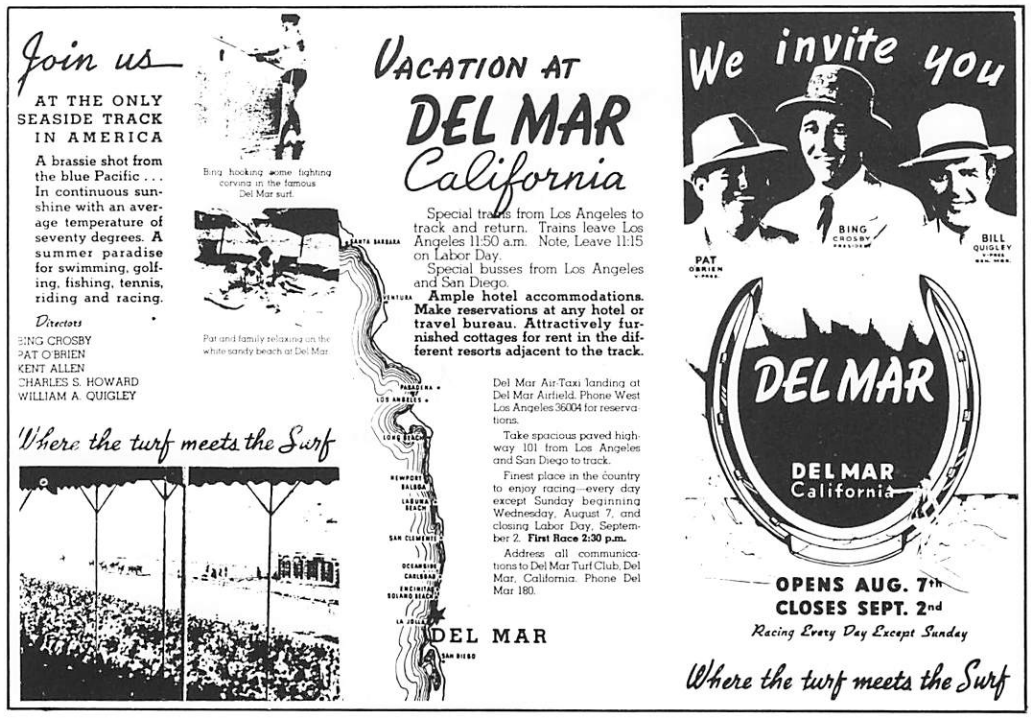
Derek Parkes

WHERE THE TURN (STILL) MEETS THE SURF

News come of major spending at the Del Mar racetrack in Southern California. About 20 miles north of San Diego, the picturesque track was originally opened in 1937 under a group of investors headed by Bing. After enduring a period of stagnation in the 1960's, the track experienced a resurgence after it was acquired by the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, which leases the track from the state and reinvests its profits into improvements. The track is undergoing $90 million in renovations, which are due to be completed by 1993.

Joseph W. Harper the president of the track is reported as saying, "Bing Crosby was a great singer, but he was a lousy race track builder. The infield is always there for a certain segment, but we need a bigger turf club, more seats for the horsemen and a more efficient grandstand."

The renovations include plans for a new grandstand and substantial improvements to the clubhouse area.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A brassie shot from the blue Pacific . . . In continuous sunshine with an average temperature of seventy degrees. A summer paradise for swimming, golfing, fishing, tennis, riding and racing.
Directors
BING CROSBY
PAT O'BRIEN
KENT ALLEN
CHARLES S. HOWARD
WILLIAM A. QUIGLEY
Bing hooking some lighting corvina in the famous Del Mar surf.
Pat and family relaxing on the white sandy beach at Del Mar.
Where the turf meets the Surf
VACATION AT
DEL MAR
California
Special trains from Los Angeles to track and return. Trains leave Los Angeles 11:50 a.m. Note, Leave 11:15 on Labor Day.
Special busses from Los Angeles and San Diego.
Ample hotel accommodations. Make reservations at any hotel or travel bureau. Attractively furnished cottages for rent in the different resorts adjacent to the track.
Del Mar Air-Taxi landing at Del Mar Airfield. Phone West Los Angeles 36004 for reservations.
Take spacious paved highway 101 from Los Angeles and San Diego to track.
Finest place in the country to enjoy racing—every day except Sunday beginning Wednesday, August 7, and closing Labor Day, September 2. First Race 2:30 p.m.
Address all communications to Del Mar Turf Club, Del Mar, California. Phone Del Mar 180.
DEL MAR
We invite you
BING CROSBY
BILL QUIGLEY
PAT O'BRIEN
DEL MAR
DEL MAR
California
OPENS AUG. 7th
CLOSES SEPT. 2nd
Racing Every Day Except Sunday
Where the turf meets the Surf

CROSBY CLUBS AROUND THE WORLD

The ICC is pleased to be associated with the following Crosby Clubs.

Please write to the appropriate address for details of membership

Club Crosby, "BINGANG"
Mark Scrimger, President
Wayne L. Martin, Editor
P.O. Box 3849
Kirkwood
Missouri 63122

Members in Europe should enrol via Ken Crossland)

THE QUEENSLAND BING CROSBY SOCIETY
17 Thurecht Parade
Scarborough
Queensland
Australia

THE BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Ken Twiss, President
P.O. Box 216
Tacoma
Washington 98401

BINGTHINGS SOCIETY
Bob Lundberg, President
4333 So 41st Street, No. 28
Tacoma
Washington 98409

BING'S FRIENDS AND COLLECTORS SOCIETY
Hobie and Cathie Wilson, Pres/Tres.
236 Andrieux Street
Sonoma
California 95476-6909

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Our back cover this time around comes courtesy of "The Advertising Archives". Members who came along to Leeds last October had the good fortune to see some of Don Haizelden's collection of Bing related advertisements. Many of these are held at "The Advertising Archives" which is run by Suzanne and Larry Viner from Unitex House, 150 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5AL (Tel: 071 837 4426). Suzanne tells me that they have numerous examples of Bing promoting various products in their library. Copies of advertisements can be obtained at a cost of £5 per item.

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That's yer lot! Thanks again to all contributors. Copy date for BING 98 will be 15 June. See ya!

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Forthcoming Events

10 May 1991 — The Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. An evening of records, films, tapes and friendship, with a three course meal thrown in. Tickets available at £7.50 from John Joyce (address on page 1) or Phil Morgan, 5 Sanderson Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2DR (Tel: 091 281 3765). Overnight accommodation can be arranged at a cost of [redacted]. £21.50 in Twin Bedded Room. Single Room Supplement £7.50.

HERE'S PHILCO LEADERSHIP IN PORTABLE RADIO VALUE

*NEW... and only $29.95** less battery

In beauty, performance and value, here's another record-breaking triumph from the Philco laboratories. A *truly portable* radio that plays on AC, DC or battery with the most amazing sensitivity and tonal output ever packed into such compact space. Exquisitely designed in choice of Ivory, Maroon, Tan or Green plastic. At its low price, the *Philco 602* sets a new standard of portable radio value! At your Philco Dealer now.

PHILCO

Famous for Quality the World Over

"Steals the Show!" says Bing Crosby

*Slightly higher Denver and West